TUESDAY
February 18, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 41

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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High levels of microbes in Kumbh river water

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Can't justify tariff, says Dissanayake

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Most deportees are from Punjab and Haryana

332 people deported from the U.S. in 2025

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THE ORCHESTRATOR

Smriti powers RCB to big win over DC

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BWSSB bans using potable water for non-essential purposes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has issued a new order banning the use of potable water for non-essential purposes. Last year, the BWSSB placed a similar ban in March owing to a water crisis.

The BWSSB has said that owing to rapid urbanisation and the population growth exceeding 10 million, the demand for water has increased significantly, emphasising the need for efficient management and stricter regulations to prevent wastage and misuse.

Violations will attract a fine of ₹5,000 per offence, with an additional penalty of ₹500 per day for continued violations.

ANOTHER REPORT
» PAGE 2

Places of Worship case put off; Centre yet to file response

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

CJI Sanjiv Khanna

The Supreme Court on Monday saw the Centre maintain a stoic silence by not filing a counter-affidavit putting on record its response to a challenge to the validity of the Places of Worship Act (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, a law that protects the identity and character of religious sites as they were on Independence Day, even as petitioners and interveners raised multifarious viewpoints and legal questions before the court.

The case has been pending for over four years. Eight orders of the court from October 2022 to December 2024, variously record the court either granting the government time to file an affidavit or the government promising the court that it was preparing a "comprehensive" one.

The case, which was due to be heard on Monday, was adjourned to the week starting on April 1 by a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

During the short hearing on Monday, the court complained about the flood of petitions being filed in the case. It dismissed writ petitions in which notice has still not been issued by the court.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Gyanesh Kumar named CEC after panel meeting

Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi appointed Election Commissioner; Congress had sought adjournment of meet of PM-led panel as top court is set to hear challenge to new law tomorrow

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed Chief Election Commissioner after a meeting of a three-member committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. He will assume office on Wednesday, when the Supreme Court will hear the challenge to a new law under which the selection has been made.

The Law Ministry notified the appointment late on Monday. Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi has been appointed an Election Commissioner.

Mr. Kumar's appointment came even as the Congress asked the government to "adjourn" the meeting of the panel till Wednesday as the case is before the court.

New role: Gyanesh Kumar will assume office as CEC on Wednesday. He was made Election Commissioner on March 14, 2024. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Gyanesh Kumar, a 1988-batch former Indian Administrative Service officer belonging to the Kerala cadre, retired as Union Cooperation Secretary on January 31, 2024. On March 14, 2024, he was appointed Election Commissioner.

While the Prime Minister heads the selection panel, Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are its members.

Congress sources said Mr. Gandhi left the meeting at the Prime Minister's official residence, after submitting his objections in writing. He was not present when the names were discussed.

'Partisan mechanism'

At a press conference after the meeting, the Congress said the new law under which the committee had been constituted created a "partisan" and "non-neutral" mechanism for the selection of Election Commissioners. The party asked the government to seek an early hearing and early disposal of the application in the court.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Citizens complain of outages lasting for hours

BENGALURU
As the demand for power in Karnataka is rising every week, consumers in Bengaluru have started complaining about power cuts lasting for hours despite the government's claims that there will be no load shedding. » PAGE 5

Rajanna hits back at Shivakumar

BENGALURU
A day after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that some people were misusing the name of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Cooperation K.N. Rajanna asked him to identify them. » PAGE 6

Tunnel mission

Workers in an under-construction tunnel for the M.G. Road metro station coming up on the Pink Line of the Bengaluru metro network on Monday. The station will be an interchange transit point between the Pink and the Purple lines. K. MURALI KUMAR (REPORT ON PAGE 3)

Citizens, experts form Bengaluru Town Hall forum to prepare shadow Master Plan for city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the State government pushes ahead with its big ticket proposals aimed at "decongesting" Bengaluru, citizen activists, urban planners, and experts on Monday resolved to constitute a Bengaluru Town Hall forum to prepare a shadow Master Plan for the city. The plan will be handed over to the government.

Actor-cum-activist Prakash Belawadi, who moderated a deliberation at the Bengaluru Press Club on mobility infrastructure planned by the government, said the government's mobility plan is "archaic and brainless".

"The plan also lacks in intent to achieve equilibrium among multi-modal transportation infrastructure," Mr. Belawadi said, adding that in the interest of the citizens and to make elected representatives understand the need for rational and scientific approach, the citizens will come together under the umbrella of the Bengaluru Town Hall and prepare a much-needed Master Plan for the city.

Social media group

As a primary exercise in this direction, a social media group will be created. In the group, citizens can freely participate in discussing ideas, concerns, and expressing opinions.

Mr. Belawadi said Bengaluru Town Hall should have at least 40 to 45 civic organisations and the primary goal is to draft a Master Plan consulting experts, urban planners, private and government institutions. For the necessary resources, the Bengaluru Town Hall may opt for crowdfunding.

Voice against tunnel

At the event, citizens and experts were critical about tunnel roads, double-decker flyover, and the elevated corridor.

In unison, they said that the proposed infrastructure does not align with the decongestion plan as it will encourage movement of private vehicles.

Ashish Verma, convener, IISc. Sustainable Transportation Lab, said the proposed infrastructure will trap the city in the vicious circle of congestion instead of discouraging car ownership and usage for daily commute. After completion of the tunnel project, in no time, it would attract more vehicles, defeating the very purpose of decongestion, he said.

Talking about the double-decker flyover, Mr. Verma said: "The government's decision to build the flyover is wrong as it will bring down the ridership of Namma Metro. The government should add another track to multiply metro lines as ridership will go up in the coming days."

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Sri D.K.Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Don't have BBMP Khata, not even manual one?
Get New Khata from BBMP online @
https://BBMP.Karnataka.gov.in/NewKhata
10,000 New BBMP Khatas being Issued!
What are you waiting for!!
E-KHATHA
Simple steps to apply for New Khata
1. Login using your Mobile & OTP
2. Enter Sale/Regd Deed No. (fetched electronically from Sub Registrar)
3. Aadhaar Verification
4. Encumbrance Certificate of the Property
5. BESCOM ID
6. Property Photo
7. Pay Property Tax Up-To-Date
Your information will be verified &
New Khata will be issued online after verification
If you have existing manual Khata then
DO NOT APPLY for New Khata. If you do so
You will be liable for criminal case
Get your eKhata for existing manual Khata @
https://BBMPeAasthi.Karnataka.gov.in

If you want to be a global sport, you need to have an event in India

The India great feels that the tennis authorities should be liberal in their desire to grow the game and look to expand the sport's footprint

INTERVIEW

Vijay Amritraj

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Indian tennis legend and the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) president Vijay Amritraj was his usual genial self, engaging journalists at the recently concluded Chennai Open ATP Challenger here.

He didn't make it seem like an interview, but was candidly and earnestly responding as if he was in an informal discussion, disregarding the mobile phones recording his thoughts. At times, he asked and was genuinely interested in what his questioners had to say.

He spoke about the Indian players' struggle to get direct entry and perform well in the Indian ATP Challengers, breakout star Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi, the Novak Djokovic-Andy Murray association, Jannik Sinner's mental strength, and the future of tennis with the current Big Three - Djokovic, Sinner, and Carlos Alcaraz.

He even invited pity talking about how he's been spending his own money chasing after ATP and breaking his head over something he hoped he wouldn't get asked about - will India get to host an ATP 250 event anytime soon? Excerpts:

Keeping at it: Performances like Maaya's will energise Indian tennis, says Amritraj R. RAGU

Speaking about Indian players struggling to get a direct entry and perform well in the ATP Challengers conducted in India, Prajnesh Gunneswaran recently said that the level of coaching in India was not good enough. He also said: "I won't blame the talent or the potential. Gopi Chand and Rahul Dravid are coaching. It's not that they didn't do well as players and make money. But they have come back. Where is the tennis player of that calibre coaching in India?" What's your take?

That's a good point. But when a person like Prajnesh or Somdev and all of them retire, and they are still very young, perfect age for them to be able to pass that on. And see where they faltered to be able to actually get even higher than that. That's the goal.

And today, the environment is such that everything is available in the global sense, not just in the local sense. So, there are lots of camps - numerous camps in the Middle East, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi. There are numerous camps in Southeast Asia, in Thailand.

And these are all pros who come in the winter time from Europe, to come and work in camps. There's a huge camp in Kenya. The Germans run a camp there. So, there are enough places to actually go and do it - Singapore also. You don't have to go all the way to Florida or to Barcelona or wherever else. And when you get to a certain stage, yes, you have to have a better, more modern version of what's required. I understand that.

So, someone like me, who comes from the old school, can teach about mental strength. But we won't be able to help in today's environment of how they strike the ball.

But we can talk about the one thing that has never changed in tennis - how a player is going to feel at 4-5 or 30-40. The way we felt at 4-5 or 30-40 and the way they feel at 4-5 or 30-40 is pretty much the same. So, at least, I know what the thought process is. But how they play the ball today is different. The court surface is different. The ball is heavier, and the racquets are different. It's all much more today's version of it. So, you need good help in that direction.

Plus, of course, the diet regimen, the training regimen, the physical fitness, and all of that need to come into play. I think we've created some of it here in Tamil Nadu, especially. But you have to reach a certain standard to get there. When you start at eight or nine years old, you don't need that. You need to get to a certain point.

Frankly speaking, to get into a Challenger tournament, you should be able to do most of it here.

Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi had a dream run, making it to the semifinals of the Mumbai Open WTA 125 recently. With that, she's become a breakout star in Indian tennis now. What are your thoughts on her performance?

Now, see, to me, that's what energises me. And frankly, we don't expect everybody to do that. We get it. But to see one, two, or three successes, makes everything we do worthwhile. So, that's my whole point. And the great thing about today's sports is the fact that the ROI (Return On Investment) on your practice is so high.

How could you not want to be in the top-20, top-30, or top-40? Because, you're set for life, which means, if you've already chosen this as your profession, this needs to be the complete focus for you. Government has been incredibly supportive of what TNTA is doing. We are trying to do whatever we can at TNTA to provide whatever they (the players) want. We try to help.

As the TNTA president, you've been putting in efforts to bring an ATP 250 event to Chennai or India in general. Could you please give an update on that? Can we expect India to host such a tournament anytime soon?

The ATP is revamping their whole schedule. So, they've come out with a calendar for 2026. There are two open weeks. There are two TBDs (To Be Decided) in the calendar. One in the summer, and one in the fall. So, I had gone after the fall event around eight or nine months ago. That's the Moscow event. That's now become a TBD. Two years ago, they put that event in Tel Aviv (Israel). Then, they took it out of Israel and stuck it for one year in Sofia (Bulgaria). And I'm sitting here saying, 'Hey, give me the event!'

The problem is that it's a winter tournament and it's here in November. We also have our window of Dec-Jan-Feb, or potentially two weeks in September after the U.S. Open. So, our windows are also a little narrow on when we can afford to have it. So, that's been the dilemma for them.

I think they're trying to add one more ATP 1000 to the calendar, which is likely to go to Jeddah. They took out three ATP 250s already. So, I'm saying, 'Don't even give me the tournament permanently. Just give me a two-year licence to run the tournament, so you can see what we do again.' It's been a while since we had it.

They're still putting me on a hurry-up and hold. So, that's where we are, honestly. I have taken everything in the kitchen sink out on the ATP, because it's their job to give us an event whether they like it or not. ATP and WTA need to have events in India. It is by far the fastest growing economy in the world. There is no tournament in India. We need a tournament in India.

If you want to be a global sport, you need to have an event in India. When I was playing in the 1970s and 80s, we had tournaments across all the capitals in Asia. On top of everything else, Nairobi, Muscat, and Cairo want a tournament each. India can have two or three tournaments. Bangkok and Manila want a tournament each. Singapore wants a tournament. Hong Kong wants a tournament. And you are saying none of this is possible? So, I'm being very vocal with these guys about doing this. They say we can only have three during the same week. So, why can't we have four, if it's not in the same continent? I'll keep at it.

Maaya. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Andy Murray is coaching Novak Djokovic now. What do you make of that association?

Well, his (Djokovic's) match against (Carlos) Alcaraz was unbelievable (Australian Open quarterfinal). One of the best matches we've seen in a long time. I mean the quality of tennis.

I think they (Djokovic and Murray) are a good match for each other. I think they'll work well together. I'm surprised at Andy, because he just finished his tennis career. And to jump into something like this! He has a family and he'd want to stay home. But he loves the game so much! He's such a terrific guy. Djokovic is a fantastic guy.

And it's interesting to see what's going to happen to (Jannik) Sinner under the circumstances - with all of these things that are going on (doping issue). We want to make sure that Alcaraz is fit and well. I think he has niggling injuries here and there that keep happening. And then, to see if any of the others are going to do any damage. Because, Sinner looks far and away the best player right now.

What do you think Murray can add to Djokovic's tennis?

Boris Becker once told me, when he was coming back after a setback, that the reason you hire someone is what he can do to re-motivate you to the same thinking.

You had the thinking, because you won everything that you could win. But now, you're being re-motivated. If you don't eat Indian food for a long time and you come back to India, all you want to do is eat Indian food. It rejuvenates your senses and your desires. So, someone like Andy, I think, can do that too.

As you've already mentioned, Sinner was dealing with a doping issue. So, how hard do you think it would have been for him to keep that in the back of his mind and win the Australian Open? How do you think he's able to push that aside and win a Slam?

I think the one major factor in Sinner's game has been Darren Cahill (Australian tennis coach), who I know very well. I brought him into television. And I always knew that Darren had a very strong mental way about him to be able to impart it to you. He'll take you to a point in your self-belief making you believe that there's no second (place or prize) for you, but only first.

And when I see Sinner playing, I see a lot of that in him. And this is his last season with Sinner. So, Sinner had a lot to get from Darren. But the way he plays is very mentally tough. It makes a huge difference.

Alcaraz is marginally more up and down, mentally. The game, Alcaraz has more to offer. Djokovic is unbelievable in the head. So, when these off-court things happen, if you're able to pull yourself together, then I think you should hold on to that team as much as you can.

Among the Big Three, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer have retired. Now, with Sinner and Alcaraz, how do you see the transition? How do you see the future of tennis with these youngsters?

So, the last five Slams, these two guys (Sinner and Alcaraz) have won. One guy (Sinner) has won three, the other guy (Alcaraz) has won two. So, they're moving on, as they get to the French (Open).

The question is, are there other good clay-courters who can actually start to do some damage? Younger guys coming along, but they may take another year or two.

For the immediate present, I think we're going to have to stay with these three guys. Djokovic still is in the mix. Does he have seven matches to pull together in a 14-day event? He can, but that Alcaraz match (Australian Open quarterfinal) took so much out of him even with a two-day break.

I know what it is to try to play after long matches. But you look at him, he's so mentally tough that he's got the ability to win a Wimbledon again. Last year, I think he was completely focused on the Olympics. And he came through in the Olympics. So, Sinner and Alcaraz are still clearly the frontrunners.

BBMP to transfer all borewells to BWSSB

Officials told to conduct survey of all RO water units and submit report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's purified drinking water units are maintained by contractors selected through a tender process. FILE PHOTO

With the Cauvery Stage V water project already operational, the responsibility for drinking water supply will be fully transferred to the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) from April 1, this year.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has initiated the transfer of borewells under its ownership to BWSSB and will also hand over drinking water units. The financial grants from central and State finance commissions for water supply will also be redirected to the BWSSB.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has directed officials to conduct a survey of all Reverse Osmosis (RO) water units within the BBMP limits and submit a report. After the survey, the BBMP will hand over the RO plants and borewells to the BWSSB.

Talking to reporters on Monday, he stated that officials have been instructed to assess the number of functional and non-functional RO plants across BBMP's eight zones and submit a report within a week. The city's purified drinking water units are maintained by contractors selected through a tender process in each zone. A comprehensive report on their current status has been sought.

The BBMP has launched an initiative to include properties that were previously outside the property tax net. A dedicated new Khata website (https://BBMP.karnataka.gov.in/NewKhata) has been introduced, allowing property owners to register their properties. So far, 10,000 property owners have applied for new Khata through this platform and in a weeks' span, Khata will be issued.

Additionally, during the One-Time Settlement scheme, around 80,000 property owners registered their properties.

A special drive is being conducted across all BBMP zones to identify unregistered properties, aiming to add one lakh properties to the tax database, which could generate an estimated ₹100 crore in revenue.

Karnataka disaster management authority to get major overhaul

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The State government has proposed to build a dedicated swanky airport-like building for the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) at Yelahanka and overhaul the authority at an estimated cost of ₹365 crore.

This was first revealed at a meeting of stakeholders in December 2024 with regard to the World Bank loan for Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme.

The KSDMA operates from room number 546 (fifth floor) of M.S. Building. The State government has proposed to establish a new building on the premises of the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

Change in nomenclature

The Revenue Department will oversee construction of this building. The government is also planning to change the nomenclature of the authority to Climate Action and Disaster Resilient Centre.

According to the Environment and Social System Assessment (ESSA) document of the Word Bank accessed by *The Hindu*, of the ₹3,500 crore World Bank fund, ₹800 crore will be disbursed to the Revenue Department for various projects, including a building for KSDMA. This comes under the disaster risk governance institutional reform program, one of the disbursement linked indicators of the World Bank. For this indicator alone, the bank will set aside $77 million (₹667 crore).

According to the document, work includes establishment of KSDMA (brand new building), launch of the Karnataka Climate and Multi-Hazard & Risk Information System (KCHRIS) data model, establishment of Centre of Excellence (CoE), and design of mitigation projects by KSDMA.

Rashmi V. Mahesh, Principal Secretary to Revenue Department, told *The Hindu*: "The ₹365 crore will be used to construct a state-of-the-art green building and campus for the KSDMA, and the State Institute of Disaster Management (SIDM) to be housed in KSDMA and operated through Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with premier institutions who will prepare modules and operate the training programmes. The campus will have international airport-like infrastructure."

The facility will have training halls, a conference room, hostels which can accommodate at least 800 persons. The same campus will also have the Disaster Management Experiential Learning Centre as part of the World Bank project.

Nagesh Aras, an expert who attended the meeting, said nearly 10% of the total funds, is earmarked for the project.

How proposed ₹365 crore will be spent

Infrastructure development (50%)
- Construction of sustainable green building and campus near international airport
- Development of large-scale training facilities, including an 800-person conference hall
- Establishment of hostel facilities for trainees and visiting faculty members
- Integration of modern technology for real-time disaster monitoring and response

Institutional capacity building (25%)
- Creation of a State Institute of Disaster Management with advanced training programmes
- Collaboration with premier institutions for specialised training modules
- Implementation of a Disaster Management Experiential Learning Centre
- Establishment of a Centre for Climate Action for Schoolchildren

Operational enhancement (25%)
- Integration with KSNDMC for better disaster coordination
- Development of Blended Finance and Risk Insurance mechanisms
- Adoption of modern disaster management systems and technologies
- Creation of sustainable operational frameworks for long-term resilience

State government has proposed to build a swanky airport-like building for KSDMA at Yelahanka at an estimated cost of ₹365 crore

GP president ends life after killing daughter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old gram panchayat president allegedly killed her minor daughter before ending her life at their residence at Nagasandra in Bagalagunte police station limits on Sunday.

Shruthi, GP president of Kundaranahalli village in Pavagada taluk, had married Gopalakrishna, a city-based auditor, 10 years ago. The couple had two children.

On Sunday, Shruthi allegedly strangled four-year-old Roshni in the room before ending her life, while her son was playing outside the house.

Shruthi had shared a suicide note with her brother and husband over phone before taking the extreme step, the police said. Investigations revealed that Shruthi was upset over the alleged illicit affair of her husband, said the police. Based on a complaint, the police have registered a case.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani ph. No. 104 for help)

Two minors booked for stealing donation box from temple

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chamarajpet police on Monday booked two juveniles for allegedly stealing a donation box from Venkataramanaswamy temple.

According to the police, the donation box was kept in front of the temple, situated in Kaniyara colony, so that devotees could make their offerings. It wasn't locked or secured.

On February 12, temple manager Srinivas, who arrived at 7 a.m., found the box missing and lodged a complaint with the police. He told the police that the donation box contained around ₹2,000.

The Chamarajpet police registered a case. The police said they recovered the stolen donation box, an autorickshaw and five two-wheelers worth ₹2.39 lakh from the minors.

The accused were habitual offenders involved in a series of thefts, the police said, adding that they have been produced before the Juvenile Justice Board for further action.

'Were the city rounds of BJP CMs a gimmick?'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar was responding to remarks by R. Ashok

Responding to the attack by BJP leaders on the city inspection that he undertook on Sunday, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday sought to know if the previous BJP Chief Ministers undertook city rounds for photoshoots.

His response came in response to remarks by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, who had mocked the Deputy Chief Minister's inspection of roads where white-topping works are under way.

"Mr. Ashok had accompanied previous BJP Chief Ministers on city rounds. Was that a gimmick or for photoshoot? Since BJP leaders are unemployed, they are trying to nitpick," he told reporters here.

"White-topping is a big budget project. It is necessary to ensure that the project is progressing well and hence, I wanted to I oversee it personally. We would like to complete the ₹1,700-crore project on time," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the comments of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on the tunnel project, Mr. Shivakumar said: "We welcome quality suggestions from all sides. If the comments have a political overtone, we will handle that too."

On non-release of Anna Bhagya and Gruhalakshmi funds, he said: "It has been pending for three months. It will be released soon. We walk the talk."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KADAMBATTU KANAKAVALLI, W/o. Late. Kuttikote Bhaskaran, aged about 62 years, resident of No. 27/1, Sri Sailam, 3rd Cross, Ganesha Block, Sultanpalya, R.T.Nagar, Bangalore - 560032 has changed my name to KADAMBATH KANAKAVALLI vide Affidavit dated 12-02-2025 sowrn before Notary Leela, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHUVEER PAI, S/o VISHWANATH PAI, R/o Bannerghatta Road Bengaluru do hereby solemnly affirm that in my Aadhar card, Pan card and in my all educational records/certificates my name is mentioned as RAGHUVEER PAI but in my Passport my name has been mentioned as KARTHATU RAGHUVEER PAI. Above mentioned two names are one and the same and belong to me only. In future I will be called and recognized by my correct name I.e RAGHUVEER PAI. Sworn before notary

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that my client Sri.B.N.Suresh intend to purchase residential vacant property bearing site No.552, in the layout formed by BDA Bangalore, situated at 11th Block Banashankari 6th stage Bangalore measuring East to West 18.00 meter and North to South 12.00 meter in all measuring 216.00 sqm from its owner If any person entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said property or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within (10) days from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said site from the owner and bounded on :

East by : Site No.561
West by : 12.00 Meter wide Road
North by : Site No.551
South by : Private Property

K.V.PREMA KRISHNA
K.V. PREMA THULASIKRISHNA
B.A., LL.B
Advocate Reg No: 943/2000
No.25, D.M Chamberi, 3rd Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-98. M : 9341381368

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedures)
IN THE COURT OF :-
Ms.DISHA SINGH, CJ,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi,
Room No.361.
SUIT No.CS No.145/21
Title:
HAIKO LOGISTICS INDIA PVT. LTD
VS
IMSTRANSEAIR INTERNATIONAL P. LTD.

To,
M/s. IMSTRANSEAIR INTERNATIONAL P. LTD.
THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS, 679, LIBRA ENCLAVE, 5TH MAIN, OMBR LAYOUT, BANASWADI, BENGALURU (BANGALORE) URBAN, KARNATAKA-560043.

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summon it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 20/02/2025 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 28/01/2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd/-
Tis Hazari Court
New Delhi -110054.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Very Short e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding, (3rd Call)
Very Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/332, Date-17.02.2025

1.	Name of the work	Widening & Strengthening / Reconstruction of (A) Kitadih Bagbera Ring Road (Length 5.77 km) (B) Kitadih Sadar Hospital Road (Length 0.570 km) (C) Ghaghidih Jail to Matladih Road (Length 1.41 km) (D) Kerwadungri to Jamshedpur Main Road (Length 1.12km) (E) Kerwadungri to UCIL Road (Length 2.55km) (F) Jaherthan Bhadrudih Football Maidan to Rajnagar Jugsalai Road (Length 1.40 km) (G) Tata Hata Main Road Turamdih to Bayangbil Ni ldungri Road (Length 0.673km) (H) Karandih Chowk to Sitla Chowk (Parsudih Main Road) (Length 1.12 km) Total Length 14.613 km for the year 2024-25
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 42,05,00,000.00 (Rupees Forty Two Crore Five Lakh Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 42.10 Lakh (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Ten Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000.00 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	12 (Twelve Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	18.02.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	18.02.2025 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	25.02.2025 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	25.02.2025 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
12.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	27.02.2025 at 12.30 PM by e-Procurement Cell, Room No. 330A, 3rd floor, Road Construction Department, Jharkhand Mantralaya , Dhurwa ,Ranchi
13.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur, Road No.- 1, CH Area.
14.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0657-2227724
15.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 346589 Road(24-25)#D
Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RCD, ROAD DIVISION, JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND

Very Short e-Procurement Notice
For National Competitive Bidding
3rd Call
Very Short e-Tender Reference No. RCD/JAMSHEDPUR/334
Date-17.02.2025

1.	Name of the work	IRQP of Kerukocha (ON NH-33) To Bengal Border via Birsa Chowk ,Simdi,Shantinagar road (Length- 27.49 K.M.) for thr year-2024-25
2.	Estimated Cost of Work (in INR)	Rs 16,72,15,000.00 (Rupees Sixteen Crore Seventy Two Lakh Fifteen Thousand Only)
3.	Initial Bid Security (Rs In Lacs)	Rs 16.73 Lakh (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand only).
4.	Initial Bid Security in the shape of	Initial Bid Security - As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
5.	Cost of Bidding documents	Rs 10,000 (Rs Ten Thousand) only.
6.	Time of Completion	08 (Eight Months)
7.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	18.02.2025 at 12.30 P.M.
8.	Start date of bidding	18.02.2025 from 12.30 P.M.
9.	Last date & Time for online bidding	25.02.2025 up to 02.00 PM.
10.	Type of Bid	Two envelope mode (Technical and Financial Bid)
11.	Last date & time for receipt of Bid Security and other documents in Online form	25.02.2025 Through e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in As per SOP issued by Information Technology and e-Governance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand vide Letter No.120, Dt. 03.10.2023
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Above informations are only indicative. Detail NIT & SBD publised on Tender portal shall be final and mandatory. Details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

PR 346591 Road(24-25)D
Executive Engineer
RCD, Road Division, Jamshedpur

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गिरिडीह।

शुद्धि – पत्र

इस प्रमण्डलान्तर्गत आमंत्रित ई–अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या– **RDD/SD/GIRIDIH/26/2024-25,** जिसका पी० आर० संख्या–346230 है, में अपरिहार्य कारणवश तिथि निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है –

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि– 19.02.2025
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 19.02.2025 से दिनांक 25.02.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।
3. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय– दिनांक 27.02.2025 अपराह्न 02:00 बजे।

निविदा की शेष शर्ते यथावत् रहेंगी।
PR 346528 Rural Development (24-25)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल
गिरिडीह।

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 094
Ph:080-22172614/2613

NIT No.: HSFC/CMG/MM/C/136/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works:

Title of work	**Providing motorable sub-base road along periphery of Devanahalli land (27 Acres), Bengaluru (HSFC)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 15.65 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**3 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 18.02.2025 (11.00 hrs) to 02.03.2025 (23.30 hrs.)**
Bid clarifications	**From 18.02.2025 (11.30 hrs.) to 03.03.2025 (10.30 hrs.)**
Due date and time of submission	**Up to 11.00 hrs. on 04.03.2025**
Date of opening of tenders	**Up to 11.30 hrs. on 04.03.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 31,300/-**

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed in the above website.

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

सिद्ध मरुत्तुव मैय आराय्ची निलैयम्
(मत्तिय सिद्ध मरुत्तुव आराय्चिक् कुळुमम्, आयुष् अमैच्चकम्, इन्तिय अरसु)
सिद्ध केंद्रीय अनुसंधान संस्थान
(सी.सी.आर.एस., चेन्नई, आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
अण्णा अरसुगी अस्पताल परिसर, अरुम्बाक्कम, चेन्नई - 600106
SIDDHA CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India)
Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai – 600106, E-mail: crisiddha@gmail.com
Phone: 044-26214925, 26214809, Web: http://crisiddha.tn.nic.in

Advt. No. 1/2025

Applications are invited for the selection of **Junior Research Fellow (Siddha) - One (Female)** for the IMR research project titled "An open randomized Double Arm Clinical Trial to Evaluate and Compare the Efficacy of Siddha Herbal Formulations 'Venpoosani Nei (Internal)' versus 'Venpoosani Nei (Internal) with Thiripala Chooranam Wash (External)' in 'Vellai Noi' for female patients attending SCRI-OPD-Chennai" through **Personal Interview** which will be held on the date to be notified later. **The last date for submission of the online application is 05.03.2025 (05.00 P.M.)** Details are available in the website www.siddhacouncil.com **Assistant Director (Siddha), Sci - IV & I/c.**

Bank of Baroda
Regional office, Bengaluru North Region,
Email id: recovery.blrnorth@bankofbaroda.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets/Vehicles

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Bank of Baroda** had taken possession of the following vehicles pursuant to the notice issued in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS"and "AS IS WHATEVER IS"** basis for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, The sale notice for Auction of Vehicle Sale Notice on **14.02.2025** for the following vehicles hereby published.

Sr No	Account Details (Account Number, Borrower Name)	Details of Property/Vehicle	Total Dues	Reserve Price / EMD/ Minimum Bid Increase Amount in Rs.
1	A/c No. 74410600000483 Mr. Pradeep Kumar C S	Mahindra Verito D4 01K9K PS 5WD, Car, Diesel, Year of Mfg. 2017, Engine No: D192213 Chasis No:MA1LSRGKFH2A80139 Reg. No: KA50A5094	Rs. 6,56,591.41 (as on 09.02.2025 Excluding other charges)	Rs. 1,70,000/- Rs. 17,000/- Rs. 10,000/-
2	A/c No. 74540600001033 M/s Sri. Ramanjaneya Enterprises	Force Traveller T1 BSIV, Tempo Traveller, Diesel, Year of Mfg. 2017, Engine No: D670XXXXX Chasis No:MC1E4CHA9JP0XXXXX Reg. No: KA52A4909	Rs. 5,67,901.98 (as on 09.02.2025 Excluding other charges)	Rs.5,20,000/- Rs.52,000/- Rs. 10,000/-
3	A/c No. 12630600003060 Mr. Pankaj Bedi	Kia Seltos D1.5 6MT HTX Plus ,Car, Diesel, Year of Mfg. 2022, Engine No: D4FAMM4421292 Chasis No:MZBEU813LNN352449*3 Reg. No: KA03 NL 9410	Rs. 15,60,202.53 (as on 09.02.2025 Excluding other charges)	Rs.14,80,000/- Rs.1,48,000/- Rs. 10,000/-
4	A/c No. 74410600000476 Mr. Mohammed Ilyas Saikalgar	Maruti Ritz LDI BSIV, Car, Diesel, Year of Mfg. 2016, Engine No: D13A5278908 Chasis No:MA3FDEB1S00558301 Reg. No: KA05AG3210	Rs.5,25,298.51 (as on 09.02.2025 Excluding other charges)	Rs.1,10,000/- Rs.11,000/- Rs. 10,000/-

Last Date for Submission of EMD & KYC Documents: Before 4.00 PM, For Sl No.1: 05.03.2025, Sl No.2,3,4: 27.03.2025 At Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bengaluru North, 4th Floor, Vijaya Towers, Near Trinity Circle, M G Road, Bengaluru.
*** EMD to be Submitted by Demand draft favouring Bank of Baroda, Payable at Bangalore.**
*** Date/ Time of e-Auction: For Sl No.1: 06.03.2025, Sl No.2,3,4: 28.03.2025 from 2.00 pm, to 6.00 pm**
*** Last Date and time for Inspection of Vehicles: For Sl No.1: till 05.03.2025, Sl No.2,3,4: till 27.03.2025 from 10.00 am to 04.00 pm.**
***Concerned officer : 1) Deepika Rani Ph No: 8828371183, 2) Karthik R Ph No: 9738724818.**
The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web Portal of **M/s. Auction Tiger Pvt. Ltd., https://bob.auctiontiger.net** before submitting their bid and taking part in the e-Auction.

Date : 17.02.2025
Place : Bengaluru
Sd/- Chief Manager
Bank of Baroda

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUDHAKAR .T, S/o G Thimma Reddy, age 42 years, R/o NO. 4, 9th Main Road, Brindhavan Nagar, Mathikere Post, Bangalore-560 054 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SUDHAKARA .T to SUDHAKAR .T, henceforth I shall be known and called as SUDHAKAR .T for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-02-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary P.N. NAGESHA at Bangalore.

TENDERS

TENDERS ARE invited for the purchase of RC Aircraft VTOL. For details, visit website: www.jntuh.ac.in

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. JUNIOR CIVIL JUDGE :: PENUKONDA
ORIGINAL SUIT No: 254/2022
Between :
M. Ravisekhara Reddy ...Plaintiff
and
S. Akbar Basha ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

S. Akbar Basha,
S/o Late S. Allisab, Venkatala, Annapurneswari School Road Corner, 3rd Cross, Yalahanka, Bengaluru City, Karnataka- 560064.

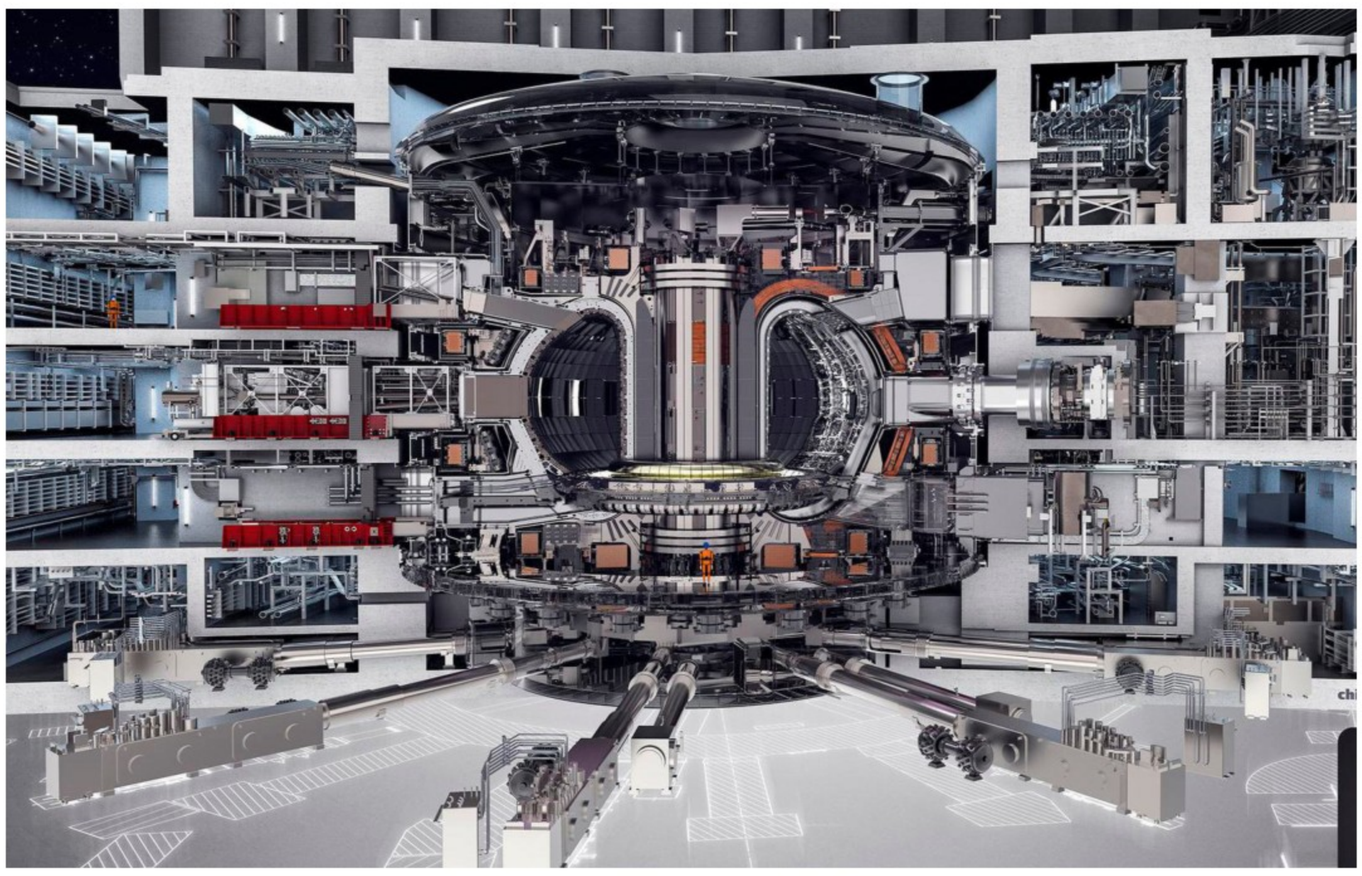
Whereas, plaintiff filed above suit against you for recovery of amount based on Reg. Mortgage and the same is posted for your appearance. Hence, you are hereby informed you to appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an advocate at on **27-02-2025 at 10-30 AM**, failing which the suit will be decided in your absence.

// By order of the Court //
Sd/- C. NARENDRA REDDY,
Advocate for Plaintiff,
Penukonda, Sri Sathya Sai Dist, A.P.

China's EAST reactor keeps the fire of magnetic fusion burning

EAST is a testbed reactor for ITER, an international megaproject in which six countries are working together to build a tokamak to sustain nuclear fusion. EAST's successes are important for ITER's future because the latter has come under criticism for its delayed timelines and cost overruns

Shamim Haque Mondal



An exploded view of the ITER nuclear-fusion facility. A human figure in orange is shown just below the image's centre for scale. The tokamak is visible at the centre, with the D-shaped cross-section. OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

On January 20, Chinese scientists reported that they were able to maintain a plasma at a temperature of 100 million degrees C for about 1,066 seconds in a nuclear fusion reactor called the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST).

In 1938, physicists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann found that energy is produced when the nucleus of an atom breaks apart, a process that Lise Meitner and Otto Frisch explained a year later as a process called "fission." Only four years later, physicists used this principle to build and operate the world's first reactor with a sustainable nuclear fission reaction.

By this time physicists also knew that energy is also produced when two atomic nuclei fuse together, a process called fusion. Nuclear fission produces harmful radioactive waste whereas nuclear fusion doesn't. This is why developing a nuclear fusion reactor has become an important technological goal for a world keenly interested in new sources of clean energy.

The tritium problem

The problem is the amount of energy required to start and sustain a fusion reaction. A nuclear fission reaction can be kicked off by shooting neutrons of suitable energy at the atoms of unstable nuclei like uranium. For fusion to occur, however, the nuclei need to be exposed to a temperature of at least 100 million degrees C.

The lightest nucleus in nature is of hydrogen, consisting of a single proton. An isotope of hydrogen called deuterium has one proton and one neutron in its nucleus. The nucleus of another isotope called tritium has one proton and two neutrons. Deuterium-deuterium fusion requires a higher temperature to begin than deuterium-tritium fusion. This is because the extra neutron in the tritium nucleus helps overcome the repulsion of like-charges between the protons.

The fusion of a deuterium and a tritium nucleus creates a non-radioactive helium-4 nucleus, a neutron, and 17.6 MeV of energy, which is significant. The neutron can be directed to a blanket of materials surrounding the reactor that capture it and release more heat.

While deuterium is abundant in seawater, there are no natural deposits of tritium and it is very hard to produce. At present it is mostly created as a by-product in heavy-water fission reactors in Canada, India, and South Korea.

The temperature problem

Yet another challenge for nuclear fusion is the temperature. For two nuclei to fuse, two things need to happen: the like-charges in the nuclei (due to the protons) need to be overcome, then the particles need to come within around 1 femtometre (fm) of each other so they can bond with each other using the strong nuclear force.

This force is the strongest fundamental force in nature and is responsible for keeping protons and neutrons together in the nuclei of atoms. But on the flip side, it only acts across very short distances: 1 fm is roughly one-fourth the width of a carbon nucleus. This is why the nuclei need to be heated to such high temperatures: to give them enough energy to overcome their repulsion and get so close to each other.

There are different reactor designs to achieve nuclear fusion by meeting these conditions. One set of designs involves the use of a tokamak – a donut-shaped vessel where the nuclei are confined, like in a cage, and made to fuse.

A magnetic cage

Inside the vessel, a deuterium gas is exposed to about 20 million degrees C, when matter exists in the plasma state. The charged particles are stripped from their respective atoms and float around freely. Next, the particles are exposed to a very strong magnetic field that acts like an invisible net, trapping the particles along the field lines. This method is called magnetic confinement.

Engineers prefer to use electromagnets – special materials that generate a magnetic field when a current is passed through wires coiled around them – to create these fields because the field strength only depends on the amount of current in the wires. These wires are also superconducting: they can carry electric current with zero resistance if they are cooled to a very low temperature, which is achieved by blanketing them with liquid nitrogen or helium.

Inside EAST, both toroidal and poloidal magnetic fields are generated by superconducting electromagnets. It is currently the world's only tokamak with this feature. Toroidal magnetic fields flow around the donut-shaped reactor while poloidal fields flow through its centre. Together, they keep the particles within from drifting into the vessel's walls and collapsing the plasma. Instead they move in a spiral pattern through the vessel, with opportunities to collide with each other and fuse.

The poloidal field also induces an electric current in the plasma. When parts of the plasma resist the flow of this current, heat is produced, adding to the energy required to achieve fusion.

Series of records

Through the years, EAST has been setting a series of records and validating the technologies used to achieve them. It was the first tokamak to sustain a plasma in high-confinement mode at around 50 million degrees C for more than 60 seconds in 2016 and for more than 100 seconds in 2017. In 2023, EAST achieved the world's first steady-state high-confinement plasma for 403 seconds – a world record that it broke on January 20, 2025, by sustaining a plasma for 1,066 seconds. For this achievement, operators provided twice the thermal power to EAST as they did for the 2023 feat, allowing the plasma to remain stable for longer.

At present, EAST isn't producing electricity. In fact, it is yet to reach a milestone called ignition: meaning it doesn't produce enough heat for more fusion reactions to occur, a.k.a. become self-sustaining. To produce usable electricity, a tokamak needs to maintain millions of degrees C for at least a few hours.

A nuclear fission reaction can be kicked off by shooting neutrons of suitable energy at the atoms of unstable nuclei like uranium. For fusion to occur, however, the nuclei need to be exposed to a temperature of at least 100 million degrees C

EAST is a testbed reactor for ITER, an international megaproject in which six countries around the world, including India, and the European Union are working together to build a tokamak that will sustain nuclear fusion that releases more energy than that required to sustain the plasma.

A need for alternatives

Crucially, EAST's successes are important for ITER's future because the latter has come under criticism for its delayed timelines and cost overruns. With a bill already upwards of euro 18 billion, ITER has been called the most expensive science experiment in history – at a time in which the high cost of doing cutting-edge science has put off many governments from pursuing it.

Some research groups have also been trying to achieve nuclear fusion using methods that require fewer (but still considerable) resources. For example, one alternative to achieving magnetic confinement is a device called a stellarator. Whereas a tokamak has a simple donut shape, a stellarator has a more twisting design that is harder to build and operate. But its advantage is that it does away with the need for a poloidal magnetic field to achieve a twisting magnetic field inside the vessel. Instead it achieves the desired field configuration using a more complicated architecture of external magnets.

Other designs do away with magnetic confinement altogether. In one technique, for example, a pellet of deuterium and tritium is hit with laser beams of extreme power.

Whereas a deuterium nucleus has one proton and one neutron, a tritium nucleus has one proton and two neutrons. When the beams strike the pellet, the energy causes the nuclei to compress and fuse, releasing more energy. The heat from the reactions could then be diverted to a pool of water, generating steam that moves a turbine and produces electricity.

In the light of lasers

In 2008, scientists at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the US began a project called 'Laser Inertial Fusion Energy' (LIFE) to test this idea. While they were able to develop lasers with the requisite power, the fusion output was found to be much lower than they had predicted. The project was cancelled in 2013 after it became clear it couldn't achieve ignition.

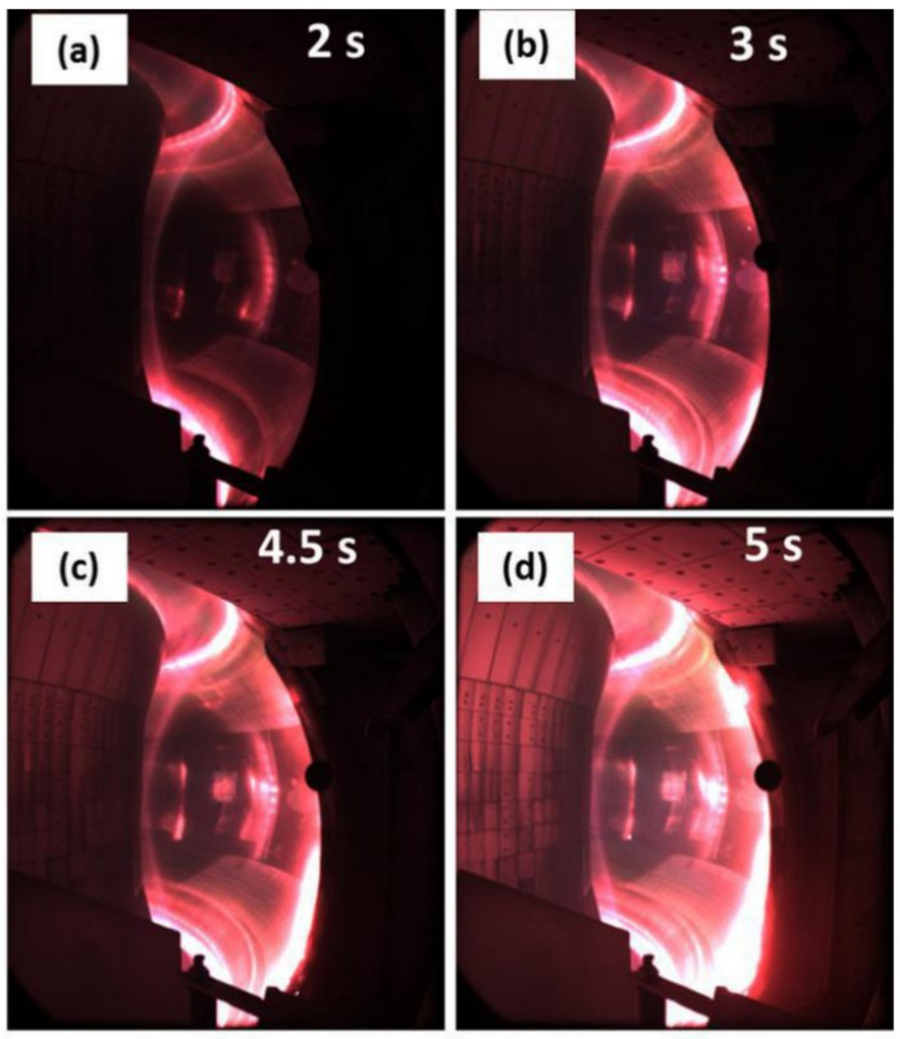
But another project at the same institute, called the National Ignition Facility (NIF), achieved the milestone in 2022. At the NIF, a system of 192 high-power lasers delivers 2.05 megajoules (MJ) of energy towards a small cylindrical capsule at the centre of the room. This capsule, called a hohlraum, is made of uranium-238 and plated with gold. It's about 2 mm wide. It contains a thin shell made of a polymer inside which deuterium and tritium atoms are placed in a frozen or gaseous state.

When electromagnetic radiation from the lasers enters the hohlraum, it strikes the inner wall and produces X-rays. Over a short span of time, the nuclei are bombarded by X-rays from all directions inside the hohlraum. Eventually they compress the fuel sample in a symmetric way and heat it up rapidly to around 100 million degrees C. In 2022, the NIF said it had used this technique to produce 3.15 MJ of energy, crossing the breakeven point.

On the other hand, ITER was launched in 2007 and is expected to produce its first plasma only in 2033, and over time also devour the world's meagre tritium reserves. The desperate need for sources of clean energy means achieving nuclear fusion may just be a matter of time, especially if governments continue to trust the scientists working on the required technologies. But which technology gets it over the line – magnetic, inertial or something else – remains to be seen. Some private sector enterprises are also beginning to enter the mix.

While the NIF has demonstrated a proof-of-concept ignition, EAST is keeping tokamaks in the hunt with its large scale and steady progress.

(Shamim Haque Mondal is a researcher in the Physics Division, State Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. shamimmondal709@gmail.com)



A fast visible wavelength camera's images of plasma inside the EAST Tokamak at various times.
DOI:10.1088/1741-4326/AA626C

Mummified bodies in the exhibition area of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. AP

Researchers discover that old Egyptian remains smell 'rather nice'

Associated Press

At first whiff, it sounds repulsive: sniff the essence of an ancient corpse. But researchers who indulged their curiosity in the name of science found that well-preserved Egyptian mummies actually smell pretty good.

"In films and books, terrible things happen to those who smell mummified bodies," said Cecilia Bembibre, director of research at University College London's Institute for Sustainable Heritage. "We were surprised at the pleasantness of them."

"Woody," "spicy," and "sweet" were the leading descriptions from what sounded more like a wine-tasting than a mummy-sniffing exercise. Floral notes were also detected, which could be from pine and juniper resins used in embalming.

The study, published on February 13 in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, used both chemical analysis and a panel of human sniffers to evaluate odours from nine mummies as old as 5,000 years that had been either in storage or on display at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

The researchers wanted to systematically study the smell of mummies because it has long been a subject of fascination for the public and researchers alike, said Bembibre, one of the report's authors. Archeologists, historians, conservators, and even fiction writers have devoted pages of their work to the subject.

Scent was an important consideration

The findings of the study provide crucial data on compounds that could preserve or degrade mummified remains

in the mummification process that used oils, waxes, and balms to preserve the body and its spirit for the afterlife. The practice was largely reserved for pharaohs and nobility, and pleasant smells were associated with purity and deities, while bad odours were signs of corruption and decay.

Without sampling the mummies themselves, which would be invasive, researchers from UCL and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia were able to measure whether aromas were coming from the archaeological item, pesticides or other products used to conserve the remains, or from deterioration due to mold, bacteria, or microorganisms.

Using technical instruments to measure and quantify air molecules emitted from sarcophagi to determine the state of preservation without touching the mummies was like the Holy Grail, Matija Strlič, a chemistry professor at the University of Ljubljana, said.

"It tells us potentially what social class a mummy was from and therefore reveals a lot of information about the mummified body that is relevant not just to conservators, but to curators and archeologists as well," he said.

Barbara Huber, a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Geoanthropology in Germany who was not involved in the study, said the findings provide crucial data on compounds that could preserve or degrade mummified remains.

Huber authored a study two years ago that analysed residue from a jar that had contained mummified organs of a noblewoman to identify embalming ingredients, their origins, and what they revealed about trade routes. She then worked with a perfumer to create an interpretation of the embalming scent, known as "Scent of Eternity," for an exhibition at the Moesgaard Museum in Denmark.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Minister refutes Centre's claim on Namma Metro fare hike

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had claimed that the Centre had no role in revising the fares

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A political row has erupted over Namma Metro fare hikes. After Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday claimed that the Centre had no role in revising the fares, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday accused the Centre of misleading the public, asserting that the fare revision was initiated and overseen by the Union Government through a legally mandated process.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy

Explaining the fare revision mechanism, Mr. Reddy clarified that Metro services come under the purview of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

"The Centre is empowered to form a Fare Fixation Committee whenever a proposal for fare revision is submitted. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited [BMRCL] had submitted such a proposal, following which the Centre initiated the process," he said.

He added that the three-member committee is headed by a retired High Court judge and includes one representative each from the Central and State governments. This committee gathers feedback from stakeholders and submits a report to MoHUA, whose Secretary takes the final decision on fare revision. "The State Government has no role in determining metro fare hikes," said Mr. Reddy.

On Saturday, Mr. Vaishnaw had claimed that the Centre had no role in revising the Metro fares.

"The price fixation committee was formed at the behest of the State government, which can answer the question of Metro fare hikes," he had said.

'BJP lying'

Countering this, Mr. Reddy pointed out that wherever metro rail operates in India, the fare revision follows the same process, requiring the central government's intervention. "A Fare Fixation Committee is formed, a report is prepared, and the Centre makes the final decision. The BJP is simply lying about the process," he alleged.

He said that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had written to the Centre urging a rollback of the fare hike. Following this, BMRCL Managing Director M. Maheshwar Rao engaged with the MoHUA Secretary, after which the fare hike was revised.

The BMRCL's announcement of a steep fare hike on February 9 triggered widespread criticism from commuters and mobility experts, with some fare increases nearing by 100%. The move also sparked a political tussle in Karnataka, with the ruling Congress and Opposition BJP blaming each other for the decision.

In response to public outcry, the CM intervened on February 13, directing the BMRCL to roll back the fare increases. Subsequently, the BMRCL revised the hike, capping the maximum stage-wise fare increase at 71%. However, the base fare of ₹10 and the highest ticket price of ₹90 remain unchanged.

Dept. orders probe into death of three convicts in Mysuru prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Director-General, Prisons and Correctional services, has ordered a probe into the death of three convicts after consuming essence while preparing cakes at central prison in Mysuru on December 26.

The convicts had died after consuming essence while preparing cakes at the central prison in Mysuru in December. FILE PHOTO

The deceased, identified as Ramesh, 28, Madesha, 32, and Nagaraj, 36, were allotted work in the bakery unit of central prison and took ill allegedly after consuming essence. They were admitted to K.R. Hospital, where they succumbed.

All three were involved in the preparation of bulk cake orders received at the bakery outlet of Mysuru central prison for Christmas. Madesha and Nagaraja were convicted for life term in two different murder cases (IPC section 302). Ramesh was convicted for 10 years in a rape case (IPC section 306).

Three cases of unnatural deaths were registered and a report was submitted to the DG, Prisons. Based on the report, a departmental inquiry has been ordered headed by a retired principal district and session judge as inquiry officer.

The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission visited the prison and recommended installation of CCTV cameras in bakery and other units of the prison. The DG, Prisons, issued directions to the Chief Superintendents of all prisons to prevent such incidents in future.

Head constable killed in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 57-year-old police head constable was killed when a speeding car knocked down his motorcycle while he was on his way to work near Sadahalli gate in Chikkajala on Sunday night.

Prakash M.V. was attached to Channarayapatna police station. On impact, Prakash crashed on the car's windscreen sustaining head injuries.

Prakash was wearing a half-helmet at the time of the accident. The Chikkajala traffic police have registered a case against the car driver.

A walk through Namma Metro's Pink Line tunnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 21-km-long Pink Line of Namma Metro, stretching from Nagawara to Gottigere, is nearing completion, according to Subrahmanya Gudge, Chief Engineer (Underground Section) of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL).

Work under way at the underground M.G. Road metro station tunnel of Pink Line in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Amid the metro fare hike fiasco, BMRCL took reporters to see the work of a metro tunnel below Kamaraj Road on Monday, where the tracks have been laid and civil work is going on of the much awaited Pink Line.

Mr. Gudge highlighted the complexities of tunnelling in Bengaluru, attributing the difficulties to the presence of boulders in the soil. He explained that granite boulders are notably hard, while dolerite boulders are even tougher. "When these boulders are smaller than the tunnel boring machine's (TBM) cutter head, they tend to rotate within the machine, damaging the cutting tools. This not only leads to tool failure but also results in ground settlement and the accumulation of debris in the machine's cutting chamber," he said.

Technical challenges

The city's geological composition, which consists of a mix of semi-porous soil and rock, further complicates tunnelling.

"While the initial layers of soil are relatively easier to excavate, cutting through rock takes significantly more time, causing delays. Some of the technical challenges encountered during construction are not immediately visible but can be detected through monitoring systems, allowing engineers to address them promptly," Mr. Gudge said.

According to officials, one of the most difficult sections of the underground project has been the 2.2-km stretch from Shivajinagar to Vellara.

In October 2024, BMRCL successfully completed the tunnelling work for the city's longest underground metro stretch – 14 km of the Pink Line, which is part of Phase 2 of the metro expansion. Though the underground section spans 14 km, the actual tunnelling work covered 21 km due to the presence of twin tunnels.

The Pink Line extends 21.3 km, comprising 13.8 km of underground tunnels and 7.5 km of elevated tracks. It will connect Nagawara, located on the Outer Ring Road in northern Bengaluru, to Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road in the south.

The BMRCL plans to commission the Pink Line in two phases. Officials said the first phase, covering the 13.8-km underground section from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, is expected to be operational by December 2026.

Rajdeep Sardesai launches his latest book

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Journalist, TV anchor, and author Rajdeep Sardesai launched his latest book *2024: The Election That Surprised India* at a special programme organised by Presidency University on Saturday.

During the event, Mr. Sardesai delved into the complexities of the electoral system in the world's largest democracy.

He emphasised the importance of speaking up on pressing societal issues and urged students to be vocal in shaping their future.

Drawing from his extensive journalism career spanning nearly four decades, Mr. Sardesai shared insightful anecdotes and discussed the role of real journalism in ensuring that every true story is told.

He called the press the "fourth pillar of democracy", highlighting the need for journalists to be both factual and fearless.

In his address, Mr. Sardesai also offered advice to students, stressing that regardless of the career path they choose, pursuing a profession with passion and a sense of fulfilment is key to maintaining personal well-being and work-life balance.

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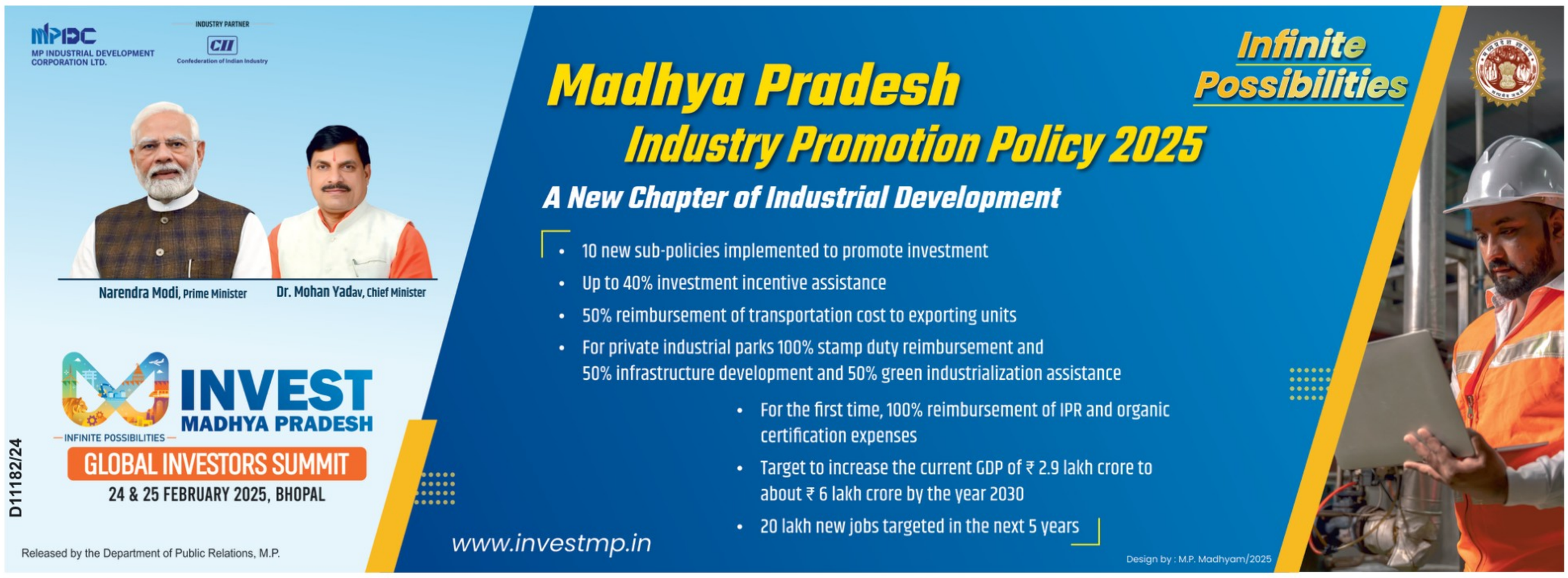
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Women who went missing in Odisha in the last five years

36,240 Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said that 421 women were trafficked to other States through middlemen, leading to the arrest of 453 people. The police has taken action to trace the trafficked women, he said. PTI

Number of settler homes to be built in occupied West Bank

974 The Israeli liberal advocacy, Peace Now, says the development of these new housing units would allow the population of the West Bank settlement to expand by 40% and further block the development of the nearby Palestinian city of Bethlehem. PTI

Number of police officers arrested in Bangladesh

41 The arrested officers are among 1,059 ex-policemen accused of committing atrocities during the 2024 student-led protests that led to the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The highest number of 174 cases were filed against Dhaka Metropolitan Police former commissioner Harunur Rashid. PTI

The United Nation's appeal for Sudan crisis aid in 2025

6 in $ billion. The UN's aim is to provide assistance to nearly 26 million people this year. Since April 2023, Sudan has been beset by conflict between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces. The UN agencies said the civil war has displaced 12 million people. AFP

Investment proposals received by the West Bengal tourism sector

5,600 in ₹ crore. Seventy tourism projects will be taken up in the 2025-26 fiscal, of which 38 are in south Bengal, the State's Tourism Minister said. These projects will entail a cost of ₹71 crore. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How did a DDoS attack cripple Kaveri 2.0?

What happened to Kaveri 2.0, the web-based portal which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka? How does a Distributed Denial of Service attack operate? How can a company or firm protect themselves against such kind of cyberattacks? Was the social media platform X also victim to a DDoS attack?

EXPLAINER

John Xavier

The story so far:
In January, web-based portal Kaveri 2.0, which streamlines property registrations in Karnataka, faced sporadic, crippling server outages. On investigating the outage, the Revenue Department and E-Governance Department concluded that it was not due to "technical glitches" but a "motivated Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack" on Kaveri 2.0, which was launched in 2023 to reform land registration.

What happened after the attack?
Following the incident, K. A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR & CS) lodged a complaint with the cyber-crime police. The Cybercrime, Economic offences, Narcotics (CEN) police registered a case under the Information Technology Act, 2000, against the unidentified miscreants. "The Kaveri 2.0 faced some performance issues during December 2024. Upon analysis and inputs from the Centre for Smart Governance [CSG], it was found that these issues were caused by a malicious DDoS attack using automated tools or bots," the FIR said.

What is a DDoS attack?
A DDoS attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic. Unlike a Denial of Service (DoS) attack, which typically involves a single source, a DDoS attack leverages multiple compromised systems, often infected with malware, to generate the traffic. These compromised systems are collectively known as a botnet. Such attacks may be aimed at saturating the bandwidth of a particular site, exploiting weaknesses in the network protocol stack, or targeting specific weaknesses in applications or services. DDoS attacks can lead to service downtime, which render services unavailable, leading to a disruption or potential loss of revenue. While DDoS attacks do not directly steal data, they can be used as a distraction while other forms of cyberattack, such as data breaches, are executed. Organisations that fall victim to DDoS attacks may suffer reputational damage, as customers and partners question their ability to protect against cyber threats.

GETTY IMAGES

What happened to Kaveri 2.0?
The Kaveri 2.0 portal experienced performance issues in December 2024 and January 2025. Fake accounts were created, and entries were made into the database using these accounts, overwhelming the system. The attack involved 62 email accounts originating from 14 IP addresses, highlighting the distributed nature of the assault. In January 2025, a similar attack occurred, with extremely high traffic observed from citizen-side users for Encumbrance Certificate (EC) searches, which was eight times more than usual. At one point, the portal received 6.2 lakh requests in just two hours from malicious users using random keywords to perform searches. This surge in traffic crippled the portal, reducing the number of registrations.

How can such attacks be mitigated?
To protect against DDoS attacks, organisations implement advanced traffic filtering mechanisms to distinguish between legitimate and malicious traffic. Monitoring tools can help identify unusual traffic patterns and take pre-emptive actions. Enforcing rate limiting can control the number of requests a user can make in a given time frame, preventing the system from being overwhelmed. Bot detection technologies, such as CAPTCHA challenges and behavioural analysis, can identify and block automated tools or bots. Additionally, robust authentication mechanisms and regular security audits can strengthen the security of online services and prevent unauthorised access. Organisations can also work closely with cybersecurity agencies to help investigate attacks and identify perpetrators. They can share information and collaborate on mitigation strategies to prevent future attacks. This will include having a dedicated team to monitor and respond to security incidents. For the user, knowing about the risks of phishing and other social engineering attacks can help prevent account compromises.

What next for Kaveri 2.0?
The cyberattack crippled the Kaveri 2.0 portal, and registrations fell significantly on February 1 and 4. While the portal was restored on February 5, the DDoS attack should serve as a wake-up call for organisations, particularly government agencies, to prioritise cybersecurity and implement robust mitigation strategies.

What are other major DDoS attacks?
There are several such attacks, but most recently Elon Musk-owned X was targeted in August 2024. Mr. Musk reported that the platform experienced a massive DDoS attack, which caused delays and disruptions. This attack occurred just before his scheduled conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump, highlighting the vulnerability of even high-profile platforms to cyber threats.

In another occasion, in 2015, Microsoft-owned code repository GitHub was targeted by a China-based botnet. The attack specifically aimed two GitHub projects that provided tools to circumvent Chinese censorship. The attack involved injecting malicious JavaScript code into the browsers of visitors to Baidu, China's most popular search engine, and other sites using Baidu's analytics services.

THE GIST

- A DDoS attack is a malicious attempt to disrupt the normal functioning of a targeted server, service, or network by overwhelming it with a flood of internet traffic.
- Following the incident, K. A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registrations and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR & CS) lodged a complaint with the cyber-crime police.
- The cyberattack crippled the Kaveri 2.0 portal, and registrations fell significantly on February 1 and 4. While the portal was restored on February 5, the DDoS attack should serve as a wake-up call for organisations, particularly government agencies, to prioritise cybersecurity.

What is the Aravali safari park project?

Across how many villages is the proposed project going to be spread across? Why have several retired Indian Forest Service officers written a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to scrap the project?

Ashok Kumar

The story so far:
The Haryana government's ambitious 3,858 hectare Aravali safari park project spread across Gurugram and Nuh – which was one of the poll promises of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party last year – is envisaged to be the world's largest safari park. However, the project has faced stiff opposition ever since it was first mooted.

What is the project?
As per the tender invited by the Haryana Tourism Department, the proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, an animal hospital, childrens' parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries. The project has now been transferred to the forest department and an expert committee has been set up to oversee it. Of the total 3,858 hectares proposed in the tender, 2,574 will be spread across 11 villages in Gurugram and the remaining 1,284 in Nuh, across its seven villages.

Why is there opposition?
The hills in the southern districts of Gurugram and Nuh are a part of Aravali, the oldest fold mountain range in the world. It runs diagonally across Rajasthan extending from Champaner in Gujarat in the southwest to near Delhi in the northeast for about 690 km. It is ecologically significant as it combats desertification by checking the spread of the Thar Desert towards eastern Rajasthan, and performs the role of an aquifer with its highly fractured and weathered quality rocks allowing water to percolate and recharge the groundwater. It is also a rich habitat to a wide spectrum of wildlife and plant species.

A group of 37 retired Indian Forest Service officers have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to scrap the project arguing that the project's aim is to simply increase tourist footfall and not conserve the mountain range. The "primary purpose of any intervention in an eco-sensitive area should be 'conservation and restoration' and not destruction", the letter said. The increased footfall, vehicular traffic and construction will disturb aquifers under the Aravali hills which are critical reserves for the water-starved districts of Gurugram and Nuh (the groundwater level in the two districts has been categorised as "over-exploited" by the Central Ground Water Board). Additionally, the location of the project falls under the category of "forest", which is protected under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Besides, Haryana has very low forest cover of 3.6%, and therefore, the State needs rewilding of natural forests and not destructive safari projects, the letter said.

What are the laws protecting Aravali?
Of the approximately 80,000 hectare Aravali hill area in Haryana, a majority is protected under various laws and by orders of the Supreme Court and NGT. "The most widespread protection to the Aravalis comes from the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900. The Special Sections 4 and 5 of the Act restrict the breaking of land and hence deforestation in hills for non-agricultural use....Recently around 24,000 hectares has been notified as Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, as a proposed offset to forest land diversion in the Nicobar islands.... Similarly, the *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* judgment (1996) extends legal protection to forests as per dictionary meaning – which should cover the remaining Aravali areas that are not notified as forest.....the Regional Plan-2021 for the National Capital Region also offers crucial protection, designating the Aravalis and forest areas as 'Natural Conservation Zone' and restricting the maximum construction limit to 0.5%," said Gurugram-based forest analyst Chetan Agarwal. Mr. Agarwal suggested that instead of a safari park, the government should declare a national park or sanctuary in the Aravalis.

THE GIST

- The proposed Aravali safari park will have animal cages, guest houses, hotels, restaurants, auditoriums, an animal hospital, children parks, botanical gardens, aquariums, cable cars, a tunnel walk with exhibits, an open-air theatre and eateries.
- The hills in the southern districts of Gurugram and Nuh are a part of Aravali, the oldest fold mountain range in the world.
- A group of 37 retired Indian Forest Service officers have written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking to scrap the project arguing that the project's aim is to simply increase tourist footfall and not conserve the mountain range.

Cloud computing service booked for mismanagement of data

A real estate company has complained that this reportedly caused them a loss of ₹150 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city-based real estate company has filed a complaint against a cloud computing service for allegedly mismanaging the company's data which reportedly caused them a loss of ₹150 crore.

Based on the complaint by Sridhar Rajendran, chief human resource officer, Adarsh Developers, the cybercrime police registered a case against Amazon Web Services (AWS) and others charging them under the IT Act and also under Section 318(4) (cheating and fraud) and Section 319(2) (impersonation) of BNS.

According to the complaint, Adarsh Developers, for the last 36 years, has been engaged in developing residential, commercial, and hospitality projects across the city. It has 1,800 employees on its rolls and over 10,000 labourers through various contactors in over 35 residential projects across Bengaluru with a turnover of ₹2,100 crore. The company was using a system stored with Amazon cloud services for storage of financial data and customers' personal data.

On May 2023, Saidalawi Safan, a business development representative from AWS, allegedly contacted the company and insisted they use an upgraded service assuring retrieval of data even in the event of cyberterrorism or sabotage, said the complaint .

In December 2023, the company procured the new storage facility. However, on January 9, 2025, at 10.48 a.m., the data environment hosted on AWS was completely deleted, said the complaint, adding that upon contacting implementation partner SAVIC Technologies Pvt. Ltd., they conveyed that there had been data loss owing to the action of a few individuals at Redington, a vendor, and AWS.

"This resulted in the loss of over six years of company business data causing substantial financial and operational loss to the company. Vital financial records, supply chain data, customer information, and operational insights accumulated over years were now is inaccessible," said the complaint.

The complaint added that the company was unable to collect payments from customers, pay statutory taxes and interest payments to lenders, which caused a loss of approximately ₹5 crore per day starting from January 9, and the total loss till January 31 was around ₹150 crore.

The cybercrime police have initiated investigations into the complaint.

AWS responds

Meanwhile, an AWS spokesperson told *The Hindu*: "The claims against AWS are false. AWS operated as designed and is not responsible for the deletion of Adarsh Developers' data."

3,000 linemen to be recruited by April-end

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Energy Minister K.J. George chairing a review meeting of his department in Haveri on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a move aimed at strengthening the workforce in the power sector and ensuring more reliable electricity supply network across the State, it has been proposed to recruit 3,000 linemen by April-end, Energy Minister K.J. George has said.

Chairing a review meeting in Haveri on Monday, Mr. George said that the services of linemen are critical in ensuring the requisite power supply and that is why the recruitment process will be expedited and completed by the end of April.

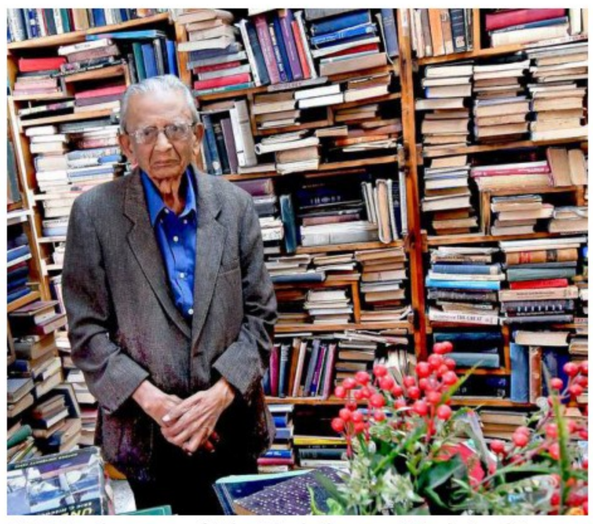
The Minister said that barring one month, the State had adequate power supply throughout last year. Considering the fact that there will be an additional demand for power this year, the department is ready to purchase additional power based on the need during summer, he said, clarifying that there is no shortage of power.

The Minister said that the government is encouraging HESCOM officials to initiate steps for more active participation of the public in order to seek suggestions on resolving issues. It is also prioritising Kusum-B scheme under which solar pumpsets are provided to address power issues pertaining to irrigation pumpsets.

Mr. George said that under the scheme, the State has increased subsidy share to 50%, while the Central government offers a 30% subsidy.

"Farmers only need to pay 20% of the cost to receive a solar pumpset," he said.

He said that after the Congress came to power in the State, 2.5 lakh illegal agricultural pumpsets have been regularised and provided with solar power. The process is still under way. Soon a decision on fresh applications pertaining to regularisation will be taken, he said.



K.K.S. Murthy, owner of Select Book Shop, on Brigade Road in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

K.K.S. Murthy of Select Book Shop is dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's legendary bookseller K.K.S. Murthy, 95, the proprietor of Select Book Shop, passed away on Monday. He was suffering from age-related ailments.

He sat at his 80-year-old bookshop that has an iconic status in the city, off Brigade Road, until three months ago. He remembered the interests of almost every customer who walked into the store for a second time, even if it was after years, recommending books for everyone's unique taste.

Personal touch

"What distinguished him from others was his memory, the personal touch in his interactions with readers. It never felt like a business. He also recommended books for everyone's particular taste," said D.N. Guruprasad, of Aakruti Books.

Though Select Book Shop was identified with him, he was a second-generation bookseller. His father K.B.K. Rao, an advocate from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, started the bookshop in 1945 on Museum Road.

He was suffering from age-related ailments

Murthy worked at the aerospace division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for 18 years and later joined the family business and grew to be synonymous with it. A documentary titled "Ayda Pustaka - The selected book" was also made on Murthy and Select Book Shop in 2021. Now, his son K. Sanjay runs the shop.

Historian Ramachandra Guha, a regular at Select Book Shop, has often talked of the shop as a great source for his research. In his essay collection *The Last Liberal and Other Essays*, he called it his favourite among all of India's second-hand bookshops.

Carlsberg India to invest ₹350 crore to scale up brewery in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Carlsberg India, a subsidiary of Carlsberg Group from Denmark which claims a brewing heritage of over 178 years, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to invest ₹350 crore to expand its existing brewery in Mysuru.

The fresh funds would enhance Carlsberg's production capabilities by adding a new can line, glass line, and keg line. This expansion is expected to boost the overall capacity of the brewery.

Nilesh Patel, managing director, Carlsberg India said, "Karnataka is a key market for Carlsberg India, and this expansion underscores our long-term commitment to the State. Our investment will not only support economic growth but also generate additional employment opportunities in the coming years."

With the new investment, Carlsberg's cumulative investment in the State has gone up to ₹600 crore, said the company.

Carlsberg India's Mysuru brewery, located in Nanjangud taluk on 28 acres of land, currently has an annual production capacity of 80 million litres and manufactures Carlsberg and Tuborg products.

Foundation launches new chapter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Christ (Deemed to be University) Alumni Foundation launched its second overseas chapter in the Middle East in Dubai on Sunday. The event was graced by Fr. Jose CC, V-C; Fr. Varghese K.J., Chief Finance Officer; and Biju Toms, director of School of Commerce, Finance, and Accountancy.

Office-bearers were appointed, including core committee members Mathew Subhas, Nithuna Varghese, Shebin Biby, and executive committee members Nikhil Alexander, Sanjit Roy, Athul Thomas, and Ronu Cherian.

Derogatory post: Accused gets bail

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A Mysuru court has given conditional bail to the man who was booked by the Udayagiri police in Mysuru for allegedly posting derogatory content on social media.

Advocate Bhaskar, who represented the accused Satish alias Panduranga, told reporters that the court had accepted the bail petition and issued orders for his release. The court also directed the accused to give complete cooperation to the police.

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Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website : www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/
E-mail : mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Equipment/34/2024-25 **Date: 11.02.2025**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the Supply & Installation of LAN Networking, Intercom & CCTV installation at Trauma Care Centre, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.02.2025 and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is 15.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/1303/KSMCA/931/2024-25

DOCUMENTS LOST

I G.Sharath Kumar, S/o Surya Prakash Rao, Plot No.307, Chetana Housing Colony Jonnabanda old Alwal Secunderabad Telangana - 500010, I have lost / misplaced my Original Sale Deed, Document No. BNG(U) BGR/3134/2010-2011, Sy. No:50/1 NOBEL Residency, Site No:340/3, Khata no 218. Situated at Yelenahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. in this I have lodge a missing complaint with lost article report Ref#1479760/ 2025 dated 15.02.2025

If anyone found Please Contact: 89762 62899 / 90040 62899

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have negotiated to purchase the Property, which is more fully described in the Schedule below from its Owner **Mr.SANTHOSH.V,** (Aadhaar No.3007 4096 8526) son of V.Venkataramanappa, residing at No.206, Adhi Apartments, Silver Spring Layout, Behind Yashomati Hospital, Munnekolalu, Marath hally Colony, Bengaluru-560 037.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim whatsoever in, upon or to the Schedule Property or to any portion thereof, by way of any easement or under agreements, arrangements, lease, trust, inheritance, gift, partition, bequest, possession, mortgage, exchange or under any deed/instrument easement or however otherwise, may submit his/her/its/their objection/s claim/s, in writing to me at the under mentioned address, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within **FIFTEEN days** of the issuance of this notice, failing which, my client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that residential Vacant Site bearing No.11, Old Katha No.1516, later No.2087/1516B, New Katha No.1516/B, (formed in converted land bearing Survey No.100/2, converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.BDS.ALN.SR(E)282/2002-03, dated 20.02.2003, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore) situated at Rachenahalli Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, (earlier Bengaluru South Taluk), Bengaluru East Taluk, now within the jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Thanisandra Ward No.6, Bengaluru, PID No.100/2/2087/1516/B/11, measuring East to West:50 Feet and North to South:30 Feet, in all measuring 1500 Square Feet and bounded as follows:- ON THE EAST Road; WEST Remaining portion of Survey No.100/2; NORTH Site bearing No.10; SOUTH Site bearing No.12, now formed as Road;

Sd/- K.S.MADANA GOPAL Advocate
No.1, Ground Floor, ROYAL PARK, No.34, Park Road,
BENGALURU - 560 051.
Ph. No. 41130082, 22864065
Place: Bangalore Date: 18-02-2025

Assistant Commissioner and The Competent Authority
1TH Floor, Doddaballapura Sub Division, Doddaballapura Taluk Bengaluru Rural District
Tel:080-22864260, e-mail:beeacdbpsubdiv@gmail.com

SPLOCA/ADM/CR/82/2024-25 **Dated:15.02.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR CALLING CLAIMS RELATING TO M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala)

Public Notice under Section 7(2) of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE) calling for submission of claims from the secured creditors and depositors of M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala),

Claim forms will be issued at the office of the Special Officer, & Competent Authority, (IMA & Other KPID Cases) 4th Floor, podium block, Vishveshwaraiah Tower, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru-560001 Phone No : +91-80-295668556, + 91-80-29604556 to the depositor/authorized representative/nominee and in the absence of the nominee, the power of attorney holder on production of identity proof and proof of investment such as original copies of Bonds, official letter and PoA documents.

Starting date of issuing claim applications	**20/02/2025**	**10-00 AM**
Last date for submission of claim applications	**21/03/2025**	**05-30 PM**

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED FOR VERIFICATION:

1. Original ID- Aadhar, PAN/Epic with xerox for attestation.
2. Bank pass sheets 2 months prior to date of investment to till date in - M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala). duly attested by the bank manager to be furnished,
3. Copy of passbook with copy of pages showing KYC.
4. Original Bonds / Agreements / Notarized Affidavits/Other Substitute Documents issued.
5. General power of attorney in the case of Authorized Agent and statutory documents shall be produced in the original.
6. Where copies are allowed as support documents, either ink signed attested clear xerox copy of every page shall be provided or original shall be provided alongside xerox copy for attestation by concerned officer. Scans / WhatsApp copies are not acceptable.
7. Passbook Issued by FE.
8. As per Section 7(4) and 7(5) of the Act, the secured creditors are required to value the security before the expiry period of one Month from **20-02-2025** send it along with their claim statements, failing which the competent authority shall get the valuation of the security to the best of its judgement which shall be binding on the secured creditors.
9. In case of death or hospitalization of the depositor, his nominees/heirs have to submit the following documents as proof for their identity and investment.

Sl. No.	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1	Depositors	Depositors should submit the documents duly notarised with Notary/Gazetted Officer/and with self-declaration.
2	Nominee	1. Death certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from Tahsildar) 3. Nominee should self-attest the above documents.
3	Legal heirs	1. Death Certificate of the depositor 2. Family tree (To be obtained from the Tahsildar) 3. Death certificate of the specific nominee (Specific Nomination of the Death Certificate) 4. Legal heir's Certificate – Court Order 5. Legal Heir should submit self-attested above documents. 6. Consent from other Legal heirs
4	PoA – Power of Attorney	1. Documents supporting hospitalization of the depositor. (In case of critical illness, a report from Medical Officer should be submitted) 2. Apostilled copy citizen card and passport in case of depositor residing outside India. 3. For Sl. No. (1) and (2) notarised Power of Attorney certificate should be submitted. 4. POA holder should submit self-attested above documents.
5	Guardian of minor	1. Death certificate of depositor. 2. Document regarding appointment of guardian. 3. Self-attested documents of above.

Applicants submitting the claim applications should submit the below mentioned documents as proof of investments in **M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala)**

Sl. No.	Depositors/ Depositor's Nominees	Documents to be submitted.
1	Pigmy Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Savings Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establishment 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
2	Fixed Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Deposit Bond/ Certificate/Fixed Deposit Certificate/Other 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
3	Cumulative Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Cumulative Deposit Certificate 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.
4	Recurring Deposit	1. Copy of front page of passbook with photograph. 2. Recurring Deposit Passbook issued by the financial establishment 3. Transaction Statement page in Passbook of claimed amount. *Depositors/Nominees/Legal Heirs/PoA holders must submit the above documents duly attested by Notary/Gazetted Officers/self.

* Any application received after the last date fixed for submission of claims under Section 7(3) of the KPIDFE Act shall not be accepted under the provisions of the Act.
* Any claim based on concocted documents or forged documents shall be rejected and criminal action will be initiated against such applicants.
* Applicants who have invested in more than one scheme in M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala) must submit the claims in separate applications.

Sd/-
Competent Authority,
M/s Yellow Express Logistics Limited Company(Nelamangala)

DIPR/CP/5128/Zenkar/2024-25

KEYWORD

ISTOCKPHOTO

Constitutional morality: the origins and nuances of the concept

Constitutional morality is a civic culture of respect for constitutional forms and offices, along with the vigilant application of public reason, self-restraint and critique. It requires citizens to understand that the constitution's rules are sacred

Saai Sudharsan Sathiyamoorthy

In the recent past, our constitutional courts have embraced the polysemous concept of "constitutional morality" as a tool to interpret and as a test to adjudicate upon the constitutional validity of statutes. Today, it is seen by some as a bulwark to keep a check on the volatility that is attached to public morality, and to others, as a "dangerous weapon". In its judgments in *Navtej Singh Johar versus Union of India* (2018) and *Joseph Shine versus UOI* (2018), the Supreme Court reinvigorated the ancient concept to frame it as an ideal of justice and a "guide (to) the law."

As such, it is not a surprise that constitutional morality and its meaning(s) have become the cynosure of debates on some of the most pressing issues of our time – the rights of sexual minorities, women's entry into temples, the limits of free speech, and the balance between national security and civil liberties. However, amidst these swirling debates of ownership, it is worth revisiting the origins of this evocative but elusive phrase. British classist George Grote's original conceptualisation of the phrase offers a nuanced and constructive path forward for popular political engagement.

Back to the roots

For Grote, whose *A History of Greece* was as much a reflection of the Victorian passion for –and self-identification with – ancient Greece as it was an attempt to champion Athenian democracy from the condescension of its critics such as the Scotsman John Gillies and William Mitford, the democracy at Athens was "one of the most important and prolific events in all Grecian history" and the result of a "rare and difficult sentiment which we may term a constitutional morality." This rare and difficult sentiment was "a paramount reverence for the forms of the constitution". This involves adherence to both the form and procedure of the constitution to resolve disputes that arise, with the actions of citizens being only subject to the rule of law, unrestrained by the "censure of those very authorities as to all their public acts." Grote claimed that eloquently drafted rules and procedures were insufficient to ensure the longevity of a constitution. It required the instillation of "constitutional morality" – a civic culture of respect for constitutional forms and offices, along with the vigilant application of public reason, self-restraint and critique. Pertinently, it requires the creation of confidence in citizens that the constitution's rules are sacred even to those with different political views, even during heated political debates.

It is this civic culture that Dr. Ambedkar spoke of during his famous invocation of the concept in his speech 'The Draft Constitution', delivered on November 4, 1948. Dr. Ambedkar believed that democracy in India would have to learn the ideal of constitutional morality, as it was not a "natural sentiment" to a polity and had to be "established and diffused" so as to ensure a free and peaceable democracy.

However, Dr. Ambedkar, who had mainly invoked Grote to stress on the necessity of providing for even minor administrative details in the Constitution, knew that the birth of such constitutional morality was a rarity in history. He knew that it was "perfectly possible to pervert the Constitution, without changing its form by merely changing the form of the administration and to make it inconsistent and opposed to the spirit of the Constitution."

For him, self-restraint was a prerequisite for preserving freedom under a properly constituted government.

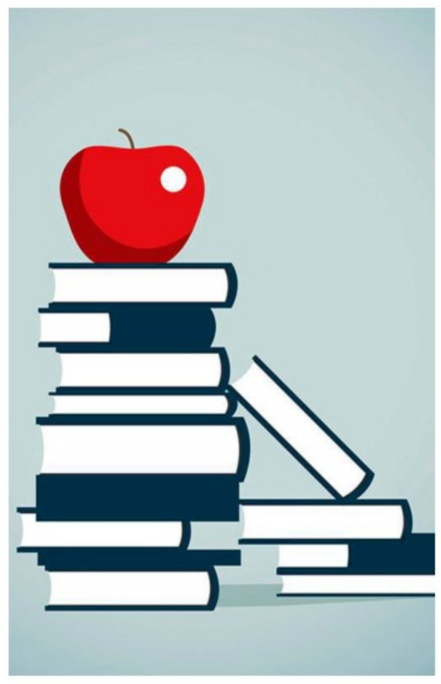
Commitment with critique

This interpretation of constitutional morality emphasises on the fact that adherence to the Constitution must be non-transactional and that it cannot be based on an expectation that it would result in outcomes that reflect the value judgments or beliefs of a particular group of citizens. In other words, it demands the acceptance of a result that is vastly different from what these citizens had envisioned. The framework's genius lies in how it navigates between competing imperatives. It demands respect for constitutional forms while enabling critique of their operation. It requires following established processes while allowing those processes to be questioned and reformed.

Most crucially, it sees the Constitution not as demanding blind devotion but as a framework for managing differences through agreed-upon procedures. This is in stark contrast to the ideal of Jürgen Habermas' constitutional patriotism, which designates political allegiance as solidarity born of the norms and values of the constitution. While the former stresses on the liberalising effect of moderate cultural nationalism, the latter often pushes forward a form of singular-identity democracy purportedly constructed on the principles espoused in the constitution.

Constitutional morality's emphasis on process is especially important given the present rhetoric. It shows how we can maintain constitutional commitment without descending into fundamentalism. It points toward a more mature constitutionalism that balances reverence and reform, stability and change. One should not forget the fact that the founding fathers also saw the promulgation of the constitution as allegiance to constitutional form.

Saai Sudharsan Sathiyamoorthy is advocate, Madras High Court.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What is the meaning of 'enervate'?"

" 'Enervate' means 'cause something to lose strength or energy'. It is an enervating climate. 'Enervate' does not mean 'energise'."

"What is the meaning of 'sesquipedalian'?"

"It literally means 'a foot and a half long'. This word is used to describe speech or writing marked by multi-syllables. Such language is called sesquipedalianism or sesquipedality. 'Sesqui' means '(more) by a half. 'Sesquicentennial' means 1-1/2 x 100 = 150: 150th anniversary. Sesqui centenary also means one-hundred-and fiftieth anniversary."

"How do you pronounce 'routine'?"

"It is pronounced 'rooteen'. When you follow a routine, you follow the same 'route', more or less. It is a regular course or procedure. 'Routine' is from the word 'route'. You have a 'routine' when you follow more or less the same 'route' or way or procedure. What is your daily routine?"

"Does 'appreciable' mean 'something that can be appreciated'?"

"No. It doesn't mean that. It means 'significant, considerable'. These shares will appreciate in about a year. His behaviour must be appreciated, not appreciable."

"Is a 'busybody' a busy person?"

"A 'busybody' is one who interferes, meddles in others' affairs. He is also 'a mischief-maker'. It is not a complimentary word."

"I have forgotten the English verse which tells us on what days we should cut our nails. If you remember it, please give me the lines."

"Well, these are the lines:

Cut them on Monday, you cut them for health:

Cut them on Tuesday, you cut them for wealth:

Cut them on Wednesday, you cut them for news;

Cut them on Thursday, a new pair of shoes:

Cut them on Friday, you cut them for sorrow;

Cut them on Saturday, you see your true love tomorrow:

Cut them on Sunday, your safety seek.

The devil will have you the rest of the week."

"What's the meaning of 'He is full of go'?"

"It means he is full of vitality. 'Go' here means energy, vitality."

Published in The Hindu on June 27, 1995.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Ramakrishna Paramahamsa on the Hindu mystic's birth anniversary

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What was the birth name of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and in which year was he born?

QUESTION 2
What important role did Bhairavi Brahmani play in Ramakrishna Paramahamsa's life?

QUESTION 3
Name the wife and spiritual consort of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa who was 17 years younger than him.

QUESTION 4
How do we better know Narendranath Dutta who is considered Ramakrishna's most famous disciple?

QUESTION 5
In which famous temple did Ramakrishna start his career as a priest?

QUESTION 6
What is the Ramakrishna Math's emblem said to symbolise?

QUESTION 7
Which affliction caused the demise of Ramakrishna?

Visual question:
What is the name of the place where the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission is located? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The reason the Nobel Prize for ICRC was delayed in 1944. **Ans: The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided that none of the nominations met the criteria outlined in Alfred Nobel's will**
2. This book proved decisive in the formation of the ICRC. **Ans: *A Memory of Solferino***
3. The Assembly is the governing body of the ICRC and all its members must be ____ nationals. **Ans: Swiss**
4. The ICRC has called this event its greatest failure. **Ans: Holocaust at Auschwitz**
5. The ICRC has come under criticism several times in the recent past from the President of this country. **Ans: Ukraine**
Visual: The reason the Ottoman Empire used this symbol instead of the Red Cross. **Ans: They believed that the cross would alienate Muslim soldiers**
Early Birds: ViswanadhaRao Batchu| Anil Warrier| Arvind Tillway

Word of the day

Counterpoise:
a weight that balances another weight; constitute a counterweight or counterbalance to

Synonyms: balance, counterbalance, counterweight, equaliser

Usage: *The villain's character is counterpoised by the hero's unwavering integrity in the film.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/counterpoisepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈkaʊntə(ɹ)ˌpɔɪz/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BIS raids factory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Monday raided aluminium castings factory Ibex Engineering Pvt. Ltd. situated on Kanakapura road and sealed it for allegedly running illegally for two years.

The BIS had given them two years to apply and acquire licence until December 1 , 2024, to get the required licence for the quality control order, but the company failed to comply.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 18	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:26
RISE 23:01	SET 10:07
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:26
RISE 23:50	SET 10:45
THURSDAY, FEB. 20	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:27
RISE 00:00	SET 11:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	33	14
Bengaluru	33	18

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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As power demand peaks, citizens complain of outages lasting for hours

Bescom officials, however, say there are no unscheduled power cuts; govt. issues slew of directions to ensure seamless supply

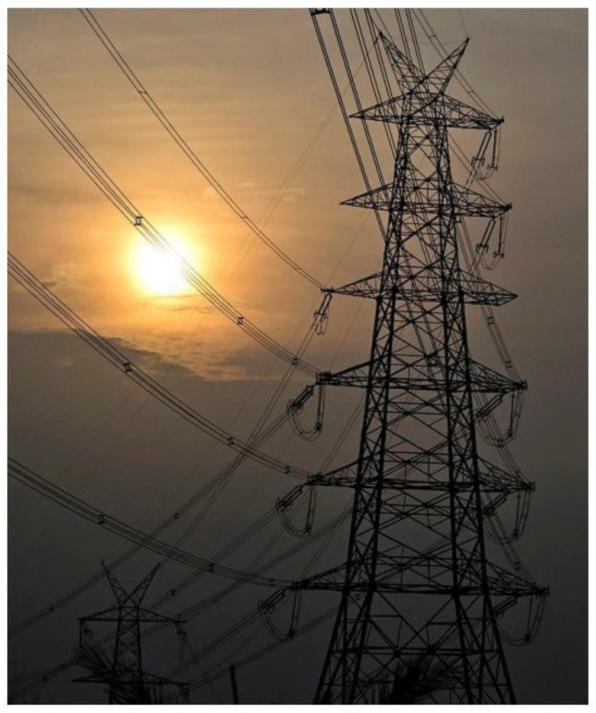
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the demand for power in Karnataka is rising every week with the temperatures, consumers in Bengaluru have started complaining about power cuts lasting for hours despite the government's claims that there will be no load shedding this year.

On Saturday, there were many complaints from BTM Layout and surrounding areas after a power trip incident in the Jayadeva substation.

From morning until 5 p.m., several consumers complained that they were unable to perform daily activities. Consumers from areas like Malleswaram, Yemlur, Bommanahalli, and Kadugodi complained about power interruptions during the night hours this week.

However, Bescom officials said there are no unscheduled power cuts.



In Bescom region, 8,248 MW, the highest peak demand so far this year, was recorded on February 7 at 9.51 a.m. FILE PHOTO

Exam time

"As it is examination time, we are being careful and there have been no power cuts for any reason other than maintenance. While we are aware that the demand for electricity has been going up, we are well-equipped to handle it and if need be, we will even purchase power and supply it, just like last year. Consumers can report their complaints on helpline 1912 and they will immediately be resolved," said a senior official.

Two weeks after recording the highest peak demand ever in the State, on February 14, the peak demand was 18,057 MW at 10 a.m. In Bescom region, 8,248 MW, the highest peak demand so far this year, was recorded on February 7 at 9.51 a.m. In February last year, the peak demand of 8,128 MW by the end of the month.

The Energy Department officials attribute the rising demand to rising heat and said the usage of air conditioning systems began earlier this year along with agricultural demand also going up.

Govt. directions

Meanwhile, Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Energy Department, in a press note, said the State peak has surpassed 18,000 MW and the power demand is likely to reach 19,000 MW in the coming month. In a meeting held on February 14, directions have been issued to multiple stakeholders to ensure adequate power supply.

Among them is to Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) to expedite congestion relief efforts in all substations and lines to complete the works and enable power supply during solar hours to Power Company of Karnataka Ltd. (PCKL) to procure power through the market for immediate relief as well as take up short-term procurement through tenders passed on Escoms' demand, and KPCL being asked to improve their thermal generation at maximum level and keep all the units on bar.

The State Load Despatch Center (SLDC) has been asked to forecast the demand and consumption day-in and day-out and advise PCKL to enable immediate action, and report congestion occurring due to station and line overloading and coordinate with KPTCL for remedial measures to enable seamless power flow.

Take action

Bescom has been asked to take action to commission the ongoing KUSUM-C projects on a war-footing to provide congestion relief and to facilitate energy management, while Escoms have to ensure daytime power supply for irrigation in forest areas to alleviate human-animal conflicts.

Escoms have also been asked to take measures to curb the use of irrigation pump-sets during the single-phase power supply period.

FKCCI objects to tariff revision proposal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has opposed Bescom's tariff revision proposal and pressed on the need for a transparent tariff without any hidden costs.

It has insisted for the tariff should be determined within 20% of the cost to serve and distribution losses should not be loaded on HT consumers.

"FKCCI requests the commission not to approve any increase in the fixed charges and the demand charges. In order to prevent HT consumers leaving the grid, tariff of HT consumers should be reduced by at least 100 paise per unit. FKCCI desires for installation of independent feeders for industrial belts across the State," said M.G. Balakrishna, federation president.

Four of family found dead in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Four persons of a family were found dead in an apartment at Vishveshvaraiah Nagar here on Monday. They have been identified as Chetan, 45, a labour contractor; his wife Rupali, 43; their son Kushal, 15, and Chetan's mother Priyamvadha, 62.

Police Commissioner Seema Latkar said the deceased were staying in two adjacent flats on the first floor of the apartment complex. While Chetan, his wife and son stayed in one flat, the other one was occupied by Priyamvadha.

Chetan hailed from Gorur in Hassan, while his wife was from Mysuru. A mechanical engineer, Chetan had returned from Dubai in 2019 and was sending labourers to work in Saudi Arabia.

The family had visited Gorur temple in Hassan on Sunday. They returned to their apartment after having dinner at the house of Rupali's parents at Aravindanagar. Chetan's brother, who stays in the U.S., had telephoned Rupali's parents to go to Chetan's apartment and check on them. The deaths came to light when Rupali's father Sethuraman reached the apartment on Monday.

Chetan is believed to have made a call to his brother Bharat in the U.S. and informed him about the decision to take the extreme step. Mr. Bharat called Mr. Sethuraman soon thereafter.

A case was booked at Vidyaranyapuram police station. It was subsequently learnt that Chetan was undergoing financial stress.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani helpline at 104.)

Two killed in mishap in Doddaballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two killed and two were injured when the car they were travelling in crashed into a fuel tanker in Doddaballapur rural police station limits on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Kiran and Vasanth, aged 21 and 25. The injured have been admitted to hospital and are said to be out of danger. The victims, residents of Nandini Layout, were working for an event management company.

They were returning after an event at Gouribidanur. Kiran was driving the car which collided head-on with the tanker near Makalidurga. The Doddaballapur rural police have registered a case against the truck driver.

॥ नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारूतः ॥

Weapons can't cut the Soul, neither fire burn it, nor water wet it, nor the wind dry it.
It is eternal, all-pervading, divine, beyond the interaction of material objects.

- Bhagvad Gita, Ch 2, Text 23

You left us, yet you continue to inspire us with the extraordinary life you have led. Today we renew our pledge to carry forward your vision.

In loving memory...

Dr. Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt

27th December, 1937 - 18th February, 2020

The KCP Limited
KCP Vietnam Limited
Fives Cail KCP Limited

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Cong. tussle intensifies as Rajanna tells DKS not to misuse AICC's name

Minister for Cooperation asks the Deputy Chief Minister to identify those misusing the CM's name and take action

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The internal squabble over leadership in the Congress seems to be continuing despite a recent intervention by Central leaders, and on Monday it turned bitter in public.

A day after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that some people were misusing the name of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Cooperation K.N. Rajanna asked him to identify them and launched a counter-attack by asking him not to misuse the All-India Congress Committee's (AICC) name.

Mr. Rajanna, a known loyalist of Mr. Siddaramaiah, said: "We have to tell him. Every now and then he speaks of AICC issuing instructions. He should not misuse the name of the AICC. Will the AICC intervene in everything?."

Stating that he would obey the instructions of the AICC, he told reporters: "Does the Deputy Chief Minister have a crown? I do not have to take lessons on discipline from anyone. Even I have worked in the Congress for 50 years. Personally, I am not dissatisfied with Mr. Shivakumar. I am neither jealous of him nor am I harbouring any ambition of becoming the Chief Minister. Of course, there are differences of opinion on issues."

> I do not have to take lessons on discipline from anyone. Even I have worked in the Congress for 50 years. Personally, I am not dissatisfied with Mr. [D.K.] Shivakumar. I am neither jealous of him nor am I harbouring any ambition of becoming the Chief Minister.
>
> **K.N. RAJANNA,** Minister for Cooperation

Later, in a brief interview to a local channel, he attacked Mr. Shivakumar and said: "You ask him (Mr. Shivakumar) who has misused the Chief Minister's name? Ask him to take action against such people."

The Cooperation Minister, who has been vocal in his support for the continuation of Mr. Siddaramaiah for the entire period of five years, said: "He (Mr. Shivakumar) is the president (of KPCC). He will have powers. He has to identify who is misusing the name of the Chief Minister. I urge him to take action against such people."

When asked what kind of action should be initiated, Mr. Rajanna said: "It is left to him. He can take whatever action."

Mr. Rajanna's sharp response in public comes after Mr. Shivakumar took potshots at the Chief Minister's loyalists on Sunday, when he said some people were misusing the name of the Chief Minister. Mr. Shivakumar further pointed out that it was the Congress that had made Mr. Siddaramaiah the Chief Minister for the second time.

Mr. Rajanna also launched a scathing attack on KPCC working president and Rajya Sabha member G.C. Chandrashekar, a known loyalist of Mr. Shivakumar, for threatening to take action against Ministers speaking out in public.

On Saturday, Mr. Chandrashekar referred to the tale of Krishna and Shishupala, likening the Congress high command to Krishna and those speaking out in public as Shishupala.

"Has the high command given him the right to speak on its behalf. If the high command has to say something, it will do so. It is the Congress' bad luck that people who cannot get 10 votes in elections and secure 258 votes in corporation elections become the Rajya Sabha member twice," Mr. Rajanna told another local channel.

The Congress has been besieged by faction politics led by the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, over a rumoured power-sharing agreement of two and three years, respectively, between them.

While the Chief Minister's camp, including the vocal Mr. Rajanna had been demanding replacement of the KPCC president, a post currently held by Mr. Shivakumar, the latter has been asking for a Cabinet reshuffle, aiming to drop the Chief Minister's loyalists.

Mr. Rajanna also said that though Ministers, including Satish Jarkiholi, H.C. Mahadevappa, M.B. Patil and G. Parameshwara, have in their individual capacity said that Mr. Siddaramaiah had to continue for the full term to lead the party in the next Assembly elections, he also supported it. "Mr. Siddaramaiah is inevitable for the Congress because the party is not cadre based, but mass based."

He also said that he had offered to become the KPCC president and resign as Cabinet Minister.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister told presspersons that the decision on the issue of leadership will be taken by the high command even as Mr. Shivakumar refused to comment.

Meanwhile, Minister for Textiles, Sugar, Sugarcane Development and Agricultural Marketing Shivanand Patil also remarked in public that there is no question of a change of leadership in Karnataka.

"Mr. Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister. He is doing his job effectively and he will continue," Mr. Patil said in Belagavi.

CM to present his record 16th Budget on March 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy, and officials at a pre-Budget meeting with farmers in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The year's first session of the legislature will begin on March 3, while Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio, is scheduled to present his record 16th Budget on March 7.

Amidst a demand from within the ruling Congress to cut down on funding to the five guarantees, the Chief Minister on Monday reiterated that there was no proposal to reduce the funds for the schemes.

The session will commence with the address by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to a joint session of the legislature.

"After discussion on the Budget, the government will reply by the end of March. The business advisory committee of the legislature will decide on the number of days that the legislature session is to be conducted," Mr. Siddaramaiah told presspersons here after holding a pre-Budget meeting with representatives of the farming community.

Stating that the government was not lagging behind in protecting the interest of farmers, the Chief Minister said that their demands would be considered within the limitations of Budget preparation. "The State government will always remain in favour of the farming community and in the development of agriculture," he said.

When his attention was drawn to people's expectations having increased owing to price rise, he said that the onus is on the Centre, though both the State and the Union governments will try to address the issue. "The State government will make efforts to address the issue of price rise," he said.

On the question of beneficiaries of guarantees not receiving their share for the past few months, the Chief Minister said that there was no proposal to cut on funding to guarantees. "If payment has not been done, we will make the payment. If it is delayed, we will review it and release it," he said, when his attention was drawn to the Anna Bhagya payments not being made in five months and the Gruha Lakshmi payments pending for three months.

Regarding Jal Jeevan Mission, he accused the Centre of not releasing the funds on time. The Chief Minister also said that the party was ready to face the zilla and taluk panchayat elections, and was awaiting court orders.

On the ongoing controversy over the revision of Namma Metro fares, the Chief Minister said that the fare revision committee chairperson is appointed by the Centre. Though BMRCL is an autonomous body, two representatives from the Centre and the State are in the committee before which the State government proposes fare revision. "The committee decides on revision and the chairperson is appointed by the Centre. The current chairperson is a retired judge from Tamil Nadu," he said.

Earlier, addressing the delegation, the Chief Minister said that the government's focus area would be agriculture since it employs the most people.

B.R. Patil is deputy chief of State planning body

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.R. Patil, Aland MLA and a known loyalist of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission. His appointment, notified on Monday, comes after he resigned as political adviser to the Chief Minister. Mr. Patil is a four-time legislator.

Mr. Patil was known to be dissatisfied over not being made a Minister and to mollify him he was appointed political adviser.

He, however, stepped down and hadn't revealed the reasons for the step. He only said that there were some problems.

Concerns rise over reported efforts to back person from private medical college for RGUHS V-C post

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prominent personalities in the field of medical education are concerned following reported efforts to appoint a faculty member from a private medical college as Vice-Chancellor (V-C) of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), against the tradition of appointing only those from government institutions.

These concerns have become serious ahead of a meeting of the screening committee to finalise the names of three probable candidates on Tuesday.

Sources said that this time efforts and lobbying were on to push the candidature of the principal of a private medical college.

A file photo of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences

Aspirants for the V-C's post as well as prominent members of the sector have strongly opposed such efforts, while arguing that the responsibilities and the requirements of the post suit only those well-versed with government administration.

The tenure of M.K. Ramesh, who is the incumbent V-C of RGUHS, ended on February 10, 2025, and the Governor recently issued an order extending his tenure by six months.

The State government has already appointed a search committee to select an appropriate candidate for the post and over 30 people, including principals of government and private medical colleges, officials of the Medical Education Department, and directors of hospitals, have applied.

RGUHS was established in 1996 and as per tradition, till now, only principals, deans, and directors of various departments of government medical colleges, and directors of the Medical Education Department with experience in administration have been selected as the V-C.

The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Act, 1994, does not have any restrictions on appointing a person from a private medical institution as the V-C. However, considering the importance of the post, subsequent governments have stuck to the tradition of appointing only those from government institutions to this post.

In 2021, the Governor appointed the principal of a private dental college as the interim V-C of RGUHS. However, there was strong opposition across the State and the interim V-C stepped down.

In this context, the State government had tried to amend the Act during the recent legislature session in Belagavi. "However, the amendment was blocked at the level of officials and it was not tabled," said sources.

"Persons from private institutions are also technically eligible for the post of RGUHS V-C as per the Act. However, their academic qualifications and administrative experience will be an important issue. As the appointment of a person from a private institution earlier created a controversy, we are confident that the Governor will go by precedence," said a key administrator in the sector.

The names of the three candidates will be finalised in the search committee meeting and submitted to the government. Then, the Chief Minister will verify the list and send it to the Governor. Finally, the Governor will appoint one as the V-C.

Govt. and NISG explore innovative digital solutions for Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A high-level meeting was held on Monday between Minister for IT & BT, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Priyank Kharge and senior officials from the National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) to explore innovative digital solutions for Karnataka.

According to an official note from Mr. Kharge's office, the discussions focused on leveraging NISG's expertise in e-governance to enhance citizen-centric service delivery and accelerate Karnataka's digital transformation.

The meeting aimed to strengthen collaborations between the Union and the State governments, as well as public and private stakeholders, to adopt global best practices and emerging technologies.

Key discussions centered on engaging NISG to facilitate advanced e-governance solutions tailored to Karnataka's needs, according to the note.

"By leveraging global best practices and fostering strategic partnerships, we aim to accelerate the State's digital transformation and set new benchmarks in governance. Our focus is on building a future-ready digital infrastructure that not only benefits Karnataka but also serves as a model for other States," said Mr. Kharge.

Rape case: High Court allows Murugha seer's plea on placing of police records

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

he High Court of Karnataka has directed the prosecution to place on record the station house diary and other documents of the Cottonpet police station in Bengaluru before the trial court in the rape case against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugharajendra Bruhan Mutt, Chitradurga.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing petitions filed by the seer, who had questioned the Chitradurga trial court on January 29, 2025 rejecting his plea, submitted under Section 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) for summoning the documents from the station.

The trial court had rejected the plea based on arguments on behalf of the prosecution that the seer could have secured the documents required under the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

The rejection of the seer's application on the face of it is illegal as the purport of Section 91 of the Cr.P.C is not that an accused should be driven to securing documents under the RTI Act, when an accused invokes Section 91 of the Cr.P.C, the High Court said.

The seer had sought the station house diary and the notebook of patrolling of a police constable and an assistant sub-inspector of the station for the period between July 24, 2022 and July 28, 2022; duty roaster maintained at the station for of July 2022; the log book and digital entries of movement of Hoysala patrolling vehicle numbers 86 & 81 and their information received from control room; statement of account pertaining to three phone pay numbers; and email sent by Odanadi Mysuru to Child Welfare Committee, Mysuru on August 28, 2022.

New judge sworn in

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

T.M. Nadaf took oath as an additional judge of the High Court of Karnataka on Monday. Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria administered the oath of office to him.

Born on July 7, 1976, Mr. Nadaf hails from Shiggaon in Haveri. He completed his undergraduate course in law from Vivekananda College of Law in Bengaluru and began his practice before the city civil court and the HC in 2000.

T.M. Nadaf

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner for Transport in Karnataka, 1st Floor, T.T.M.C. Building, B.M.T.C. Complex, Shantinagara, Bengaluru.

No: CT/F&B-3/PR-42/2024-25 Date: 14.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for operation and maintenance of automated driving testing track established at Bidar. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted online through e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-Procurement website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in They may take assistance from e-Procurement help desk at +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777. Last date for submission of Bids is: **17.03.2025 upto 5-00 p.m.**
For clarifications please contact: **080-22235176. Tender No. TD/2024-25/SE0070.**

Sd/-
For Commissioner for Transport Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5101/MAA/2024-25

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ
ನಂ. 333/1, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿ.ಜೆ. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಸೂಲಿಬೆಲೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಟೌನ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562110.

ಸಂ: ಬಿಐಎಎಪಿಎ/Auction/02/2024-25/3040 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.02.2025

–:ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:–

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನಿಧಿ **ರೂ.20.00** ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮೀರದಂತೆ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **TPA/2024-25/AUCTION35** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನವರು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15/02/2025** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01/03/2025** ರ ಸಮಯ **ಸಂಜೆ 4.00** ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಂತರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಮಾನ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/5108/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಒ/2024–25

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SINDHANUR

CMC/SND/ENG/2024-25 Date: 14-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION. (Through KPPP Portal only)

On the behalf of the Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council Sindhanur from eligible consultancy service providers for the work as Project Management Consultancy and Supervising of Construction of Lower Impounding Reservoir for Supplying Drinking Water to Sindhanur City at Turvihal Village Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District (DMA/2024-25/SE4358/CALL-2) through KPPP portal on two cover tender procedure BID KC-4 The tender shall be offered through KPPP system only and will be in Two cover system The "Consultant" herein means either an individual Consultant or a firm or a company. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender.

1) Tender document maybe down load from Kppp portal of the government of Karnataka from Date: 14-02-2025 To 03-03-2025 Time: 4-30 PM. 2)Tender must be submitted online through Kppp portal on or before 03-03-2025 Time: 4-30 PM. 3) Tender technical bid will be opened on 04-03-2025 Time: 4-45 PM.

DIP/RCR/742/KSMCA/743/2024-25

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
CMC Sindhaur

How the State's new Ordinance proposes to crack down on microfinance institutions

The new legislation seeks to regulate the actions of such illegal MFIs, thereby protecting economically vulnerable groups and individual defaulters from the undue hardship of usurious interest rates

EXPLAINER

Nalme Nachiyar
BENGALURU

The story so far

On February 12, 2025, after days of deliberations, the State government promulgated the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance, 2025, which aims to crackdown on unregistered and unlicensed microfinance institutions (MFI) and moneylending agencies or organisations that employ forceful means to recover loans given to poor people.

The new legislation seeks to regulate the actions of such illegal MFIs, thereby protecting economically vulnerable groups and individual defaulters from the undue hardship of usurious interest rates and coercive means of recovery.

What were the allegations against MFIs?

Over the last few months, incidents have been reported from across the State of large-scale harassment of those who had availed loans from microfinance institutions.

MFIs were accused of overlending without assessing borrowers' repaying capacity, thus trapping them in an endless debt cycle, of levying exorbitant interest rates ranging between 21% and 29%, and outsourcing loan recovery to rowdies and agents.

While over a dozen people ended their lives, many have had to leave their villages with their families due to harassment from recovery agents.

Following public uproar, the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government decided to take the Ordinance route to protect the interests of small borrowers, such as farmers, women and women's self-help groups, vendors, migrant workers, and other disadvantaged groups. It exempts banks and NBFCs registered with the RBI from its ambit.

The Ordinance also empowers the State government to specify the lending norms, collection and recovery practices by notification

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and some of his Cabinet colleagues at a meeting on January 25. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot returned the draft Ordinance on February 7, seeking six clarifications. This included reservations over the Ordinance benefiting only borrowers with no provision to protect lenders, the "excessive" penal provisions of ₹5 lakh fine and 10-year imprisonment, among others.

The government resent the Ordinance to the Governor without any changes on February 10 but provided a detailed explanation to the issues flagged by Mr. Gehlot.

What is the procedure for registration/renewal of MFIs?

The legislation mandates all existing and new MFIs, money lending agencies, organisations and lenders to register with the Registering Authority - who are Deputy Commissioners of the district - within 30 days from the date of commencement of the Ordinance.

Lenders should specify the villages or towns in which they have been operating or propose to operate, the rate of interest being charged, system of conducting due diligence and recovery, list of persons authorised to lend or recover money, details of the borrower and the loan.

Upon verification, the Registering Authority can accord registration of operation to the lenders for a period of one year. Lenders seeking renewal of registration must file an application 60 days before the expiry of the one-year period. The RA holds the power to approve or refuse renewal after verification of the lender's performance and hearing objections, if any, from the general public.

The authority, either suo motu or upon receipt of complaint by a borrower, is also empowered to cancel the registration of an MFI.

What are the guidelines for lending/borrowing?

To ensure transparency in rates of interest charged by MFIs, the Ordinance lays down only four components in loan pricing - the interest charge, the processing charge, the insurance premium and delayed penal payment. A standard loan agreement should be drawn and the lenders must provide a loan card in Kannada with complete details of the borrower, the loan and rate of interest, terms and conditions, acknowledgements of all repayments as well as final discharge.

The rate of interest charged by MFIs must be prominently displayed in all its offices and on the website. All communications to the borrower should be in Kannada. Loan application forms must include all necessary information to enable comparison of terms and conditions offered by different MFIs and must indicate the documents required to be submitted.

The day before the loan is availed, every MFI should deliver to the borrower a clear statement on the date of the loan and its maturity, the amount and interest rate, the name and address of the MFI functionary.

MFIs must compulsorily give the borrower a duly signed receipt for any payment made.

Every MFI must submit a quarterly and annual statement to the Registering Authority with a list of borrowers and the loan and repayment details, failing which the entity shall be punishable with a six-month imprisonment or fine upto ₹10,000 or both.

What is coercive action?

The Ordinance states that any form of coercive recovery by MFIs or through agents shall be liable for punishment and to suspension or cancellation of registration. Coercive actions against the borrowers can include:

- Exerting pressure, using violence or insulting, or intimidating the borrower or his/her family.
- Persistently following the borrower, and his/her family members or interfering with, depriving or hindering the use of any property owned/used by him/her.
- Frequenting the house or other place where the borrower resides or works, and conducts business.
- Using the service of private or external agencies, criminals to urge the borrower to make payment using coercive and undue influence.
- Forcibly taking any document from the borrower which entitles the borrower to a benefit under any government programme.

MFIs were accused of overlending without assessing borrowers' repaying capacity, thus trapping them in an endless debt cycle. GETTY IMAGES

What's in it for the borrowers?

In an effort to offer relief to borrowers, the Ordinance wholly discharges those from "vulnerable section of the society" of every loan given before its commencement, including the amount of interest, payable to unregistered and unlicensed lenders.

Further, it says that no civil court should entertain any suit or proceeding against the borrower for the recovery of loan or interest. It states that all suits and proceedings pending against borrowers for the recovery of loans should be closed. The Ordinance also empowers the State government to specify the lending norms, collection and recovery practices by notification. MFIs are prohibited from seeking any collateral from a borrower by way of pawn, pledge or other security for the loan.

What are the penalties?

According to the Ordinance, people can file a complaint regarding violation of a provision of the proposed Ordinance at a police station. No police officer can refuse to register a case. A police officer not below the rank of Dy.SP is empowered to file a suo moto case.

It also enables the government to appoint an ombudsperson for settling disputes between the borrower and the lender. It has proposed a three-year imprisonment and fine of ₹5 lakh for the offences committed under the law.

What are the Governor's suggestions?

While giving his nod to the Ordinance, the Governor suggested that the government study its "legal and social impact in detail in both the legislature Houses," and include any corrective measures in the Bill that would replace the Ordinance. The Governor advised the State government to ensure that the legislation is not misinterpreted or misutilised to harass genuine lenders such as legal and registered bodies like banks regulated by RBI, as well as cooperative banks, non-banking financial companies and housing finance corporations, registered under RBI.

Any misuse of the Ordinance could leave genuine lenders with no remedy to recover their pending amounts, which may then lead to legal battles and burdensome litigations, he pointed out.

What power does the State hold?

For the next two years, the State government has the power to make additional provisions to remove any difficulty that could hinder implementation of the existing provisions in the Ordinance through an order published in the Official Gazette. The government can also issue orders, instructions and directions regarding rules for registers, forms, online procedures and portals, help centers.

The rules made by the State Government to carry out the Ordinance must be presented before both Houses of the Legislature for a total period of 30 days, which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions.

What are the concerns?

According to the Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN), a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) recognised by the RBI, microfinance institutions currently serve over 63 lakh unique individual borrowers of microcredit loans In Karnataka.

The total gross loan portfolio of MFIs in Karnataka - the fourth largest market for microlenders - surged from ₹16,946 crore in March 2019 to ₹42,265 crore in 2023-24, as per the data given by MFIs. The average loan per client in Karnataka is ₹44,036.

Experts in microfinance companies say that the Ordinance would adversely impact the recovery of loans both by both registered as well as unlicensed and unregistered MFIs. It could also be be challenged in court.

Despite the Ordinance excluding banks, NBFCs and non-banking finance companies-microfinance institutions, an analysis by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has said it could have short-term disruptions, impact customer discipline in the near term and lead to an increase in delinquencies in 4QFY25 for NBFC-MFIs.

Newborn undergoes minimally invasive hernia repair surgery

It is a rare condition where a defect in the diaphragm allows abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity, impairing lung and heart development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-day-old infant underwent a minimally invasive hernia repair surgery for a left-sided Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH) in the private hospital in the city last month.

Occurring in one out of every 5,000 babies, CDH is a rare condition where a defect in the diaphragm allows abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity, impairing lung and heart development.

While over 80% of CDH cases occur on the left side, 10% are on the right side and the rest 10% are bilateral.

In this case, the condition was recognised antenatally during a routine anomaly scan at 22 weeks. Advanced pre-natal imaging technology revealed characteristic signs of CDH in the baby such as bowel or intestinal loops present in the chest cavity, displacing the lung and heart tissue. But the initial signs were hopeful as the baby had already developed the lungs with there being no high pulmonary blood pressure or heart and chromosomal anomalies.

In this case, the condition was recognised antenatally during a routine anomaly scan at 22 weeks. GETTY IMAGES

The mother underwent a c-section at Aster Women and Children Hospital, Whitefield, and delivered a male baby on January 3. Further investigations including X-rays done post-delivery confirmed the diagnosis. Echocardiograms were used to determine there was no pulmonary hypertension. The baby demonstrated well-developed lungs, normal pressure gradients and stable cardiovascular function.

Thoracoscopic surgery

Additionally, the defect in the diaphragm was small, with only intestines as contents and the absence of major structural anomalies. Spontaneous breathing of the baby was good, it did not require ventilatory support after birth. These factors made the baby a suitable candidate and the team at the hospital decided to go for a minimally invasive thoracoscopic surgery to treat his CDH.

The surgery was performed 48 hours after the child's birth to allow stabilisation. Small three mm incisions were made to insert the thoracoscope (a camera attached to a telescope) and other surgical instruments. After detecting the anomaly, the intestines were reduced to the abdominal cavity and the diaphragmatic defect was meticulously sutured using non-absorbable stitches, said doctors.

"The surgery was done without any complications. The anaesthesia team carefully monitored the baby's oxygen levels, blood pressure and temperature during the procedure. As a result, no immediate complications were encountered, and the baby's condition was stable throughout," said Manjiri Somashekhar, Lead and Senior Consultant - Paediatric Surgery, at the hospital.

Lathiesh Kumar, Lead Neonatology, Consultant - Paediatrics and Neonatology at the hospital said post-surgery, the baby required only 24 hours of ventilatory support, a stark contrast to the extended care often needed in traditional open surgeries. "The chest tube used during the procedure to drain out any excess air, fluid, or blood collected during the surgery was removed within 24 hours and the baby was able to transition to tube feeding shortly after. The baby was discharged in five days post operation.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1975

Karnataka Minister and MP Figure in Murder Case

Bangalore, Feb. 17. The Karnataka Legislative Council was informed today that the Judicial Magistrate of Gokak in Belgaum district had issued summons to the Minister of State for Sericulture, Mr. V.S. Koujalagi, and the Congress MP from Belgaum, Mr. Kotra Setty as accused in a murder case.

The issue was raised by the Opposition Leader, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde (Cong O) who read out details of the murder case from a copy of an order issued recently by the Judicial Magistrate.

Mr. Hegde said the matter he had raised involved issues of decorum and dignity of the House and demanded that in the interest of justice and of the reputation of the ruling party, Mr. Koujalgi should be removed from the Ministry. The leader of the House and Revenue Minister, Mr. N. Hutchmasty Gowda, declined to countenance the Opposition Leader's demands for the removal of Mr. Koujalgi and said there were no grounds for Mr. Hegde's fears that the course of the murder trial would be adversely affected by the continuance of the Minister of State in the Government.

CITYBEATS

Soul connect

FEBRUARY 19
Embark on a musical journey with Mir Mukhtiyar Ali's *Rohirang-Colours of the Desert*. Mukhtiyar's Sufi music is rooted in the tradition of the Mirasi lineage of Rajasthan and he brings forth a repertoire of timeless compositions from Bulleh Shah, Kabir, Meerabai, and other mystic poets.
From 8pm at Windmills, Whitefield.
Tickets on BookMyShow.

Morning fuel

ONGOING
Fast Coffee has introduced a brand new breakfast menu, keeping in mind the brand's ethos of Fair and Sustainable Trade (FAST). Enjoy kaya toast with easy drip pour-over, baked beans toast with piccolo, scrambled eggs toast with bulletproof coffee and more. Meal for two is priced at ₹905.
The new menu is available at Fast Coffee, Koramangala, between 8am and 11pm.

Get on your feet

FEBRUARY 28
Tired of sitting it out when everyone is having a fun time moving to the music? Connie & Danny's School of Dance will be hosting a two-day dance workshop. Tickets are ₹2500 for couples and ₹1500 for solo participants. To book your slot call 81977 15790 / 63611 45433.
Classes at The Raft, Koramangala on February 28 and March 1. From 6-8pm on both days.

Flying the metal flag high

The recently concluded Bangalore Open Air was a study in how the festival has evolved by leaps and bounds

Melody and mayhem Scenes from Bangalore Open Air 2025. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anurag Tagat

The 12th edition of metal festival Bangalore Open Air (BOA) held on February 8 this year, was arguably not just about metal offering something for lovers of heavy music, but also in their own capacity. That is often the true mark of a festival's growth.

There is something to be said about choosing between staying the course and evolving and Bangalore Open Air has steadily done that since 2012. When they returned a full four years after the pandemic-enforced break in 2023, American metalcore band Born of Osiris were among the headliners alongside black metal veterans Mayhem. Then, in 2024, the festival ambitiously scaled to a two-day edition at a new venue, hosting thrash metal legends Kreator and Swedish melodic death metal favourites, In Flames.

While a two-day edition was promised for the 2025 edition as well, plans were readjusted when the line-up came out – progressive metalcore band Jinjer from Ukraine and avant-garde American act Cynic were headliners and BOA returned to its home in Royal Orchid Resort and Convention Centre in Yelahanka.

This time, there were more bands and two stages, which BOA had not done in a while, plus stalls ranging from fashion to art and a wheelchair-accessible ramp. Meet and greet sessions, another time-tested tradition at the festival, also took place. More ticket packages included accommodation and airport transfers, as well as an elevated area for viewing.

One of the highlights of the 12th edition was seeing the indoor area – the Kadence stage officially named Halford's Altar after Judas Priest's legendary vocalist Rob Halford – in total light and sound mode for Sweden's synthwave duo Midnight Danger, who played the penultimate set. The hypnotic synthwave doled out by these gents, complete with wild haircuts reminiscent of 80s glam metal bands and ghoulish facepaint, was captivating.

Oscillating between guitars and a synthesizer, while the drummer stayed put thrashing dramatically behind his elevated kit, Midnight Danger proved that fans in India, like metalheads globally, enjoyed synthwave.

Of course, there was plenty of brutal, primal metal for fans who know the festival – Greek act Suicidal Angels were clear favourites for the crowd, who showed up in numbers and milled about in the moshpit early in the evening. While Sweden's death metal band Necrophobic had a few sound issues starting off, they kept it to business as usual when they steadied their performance flow. Early on, Pune thrash metal trio Kasck at the indoor stage received plenty of mosh action and fists pumped in agreement, while veteran act Demonic Resurrection's first Bengaluru show in more than five years was met with plenty of reverence.

With two stages, a myriad of stalls and a wheelchair ramp, this edition of BOA showcased its growth

Bengaluru's very own Inner Sanctum – now led by Delhi-based vocalist Shashank Bhatnagar – were in their element as well, with a short four-song set that brought the house down. This was a band confident and well-adjusted to putting a high-quality show together even if they were handed a shortened performance slot.

The night then went to Cynic and Jinjer, the headliners. Granted they are not everyone's cup of tea, Cynic first grew to fame in the early 1990s, so that makes them pretty old-school. Their style of jazz-fusion and progressive metal traversed their entire discography, from *Focus* in 1993 to *Traced in Air* in 2008 (an early part of their set included the song 'Evolutionary Sleeper') and more recent albums *Kindly Bent To Free Us* and *Ascension Codes*.

Playing in honour of his late bandmates, Sean Reinert and Sean Malone, founder, vocalist and guitarist Paul Masvidal was leading the way like a shaman or magician, weaving together captivating progressive rock/metal for everyone in the audience.

Jinjer were led by vocalist Tatiana Shmayluk. The Donetsk-origin band represents a more recent wave of metal led by a female voice that can growl as well as sing, which perhaps surprised anyone who were just discovering Jinjer at Bangalore Open Air. It was all in a day's work for the band, which ran through crushing breakdowns, grandiose choruses and everything in between.

Sounding as massive as ever, Jinjer played off their new album *Duél* – released just a day before they came to India. Alongside fresh songs such 'Fast Draw,' 'Kafka' and 'Someone's Daughter', there were hits like 'Pisces', 'I Speak Astronomy' and others.

BOA provided an alternative in that anyone not into modern metal could watch Midnight Danger at the indoor stage, but Jinjer were unmissable in many ways.

There were messages of gratitude transmitted from onstage by Jinjer, and at one point, Shmayluk made a larger point, "Cherish your motherland, my friends," she told BOA. Thousands in attendance acknowledged, with chants of "Jinjer" echoing.

Basking in the afterglow

Shape of you Ed Sheeran's maiden trip to Bengaluru was a roaring success. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Priyamedha Dutta

Attending a concert had always been on my to-do list, but apart from the usual college gigs, I had never experienced the magic of a live performance. I had imagined crossing it off my list with Cold Play's recent gig in the country, but the logistics and travel costs of attending a concert in another city dampened my excitement. When Ed Sheeran bringing his + - = ÷ *x* (The Mathematics Tour) to Bengaluru, seemed to be a nudge from the universe.

The hour-and-a-half journey by metro was met by another long wait in line followed by a security check to enter the concert space. Instead of the expected Gen Z crowd, there were fans of all ages including couples and families.

Finding a good spot for oneself is the biggest task at a concert. After some strategic jostling through the sea of people, the mission was accomplished. The evening kicked off with an electrifying performance by Mali aka Maalvika Manoj. She set the mood with 'Semi Automatic Butane', 'Mango Showers', and '*Anniku Raatri*.'

Then, as the sun began to set, Ed took the stage donning his 'Bengaluru' t-shirt and opened his performance with 'Castle on the Hill'. The atmosphere instantly lit up with the crowd joining in, singing along to every word.

On his first day of performing in Bengaluru, Ed shared a heartfelt moment, "We played in Pune, Chennai and Hyderabad, but I can already tell this will be the best performance so far." The evening followed with hits including, 'Shivers,' 'I'm a Mess', 'Photograph', and 'Happier' which had the crowd buzzing.

While some songs felt very familiar, others the lyrics were to be simply enjoyed and occasionally hummed along. Contrary to what some might say, you do not need to know all songs by heart to enjoy a concert. Ed made sure to throw a few tunes towards the audience encouraging them to sing along, keeping everyone hooked and energised throughout the show.

Even more incredible was when he revealed halfway through the concert that nothing was pre-recorded – every sound was created live, layered in real time and erased once the show ended, making each city's experience truly one-of-a-kind.

It was the fan favourite, 'Perfect' that had the whole audience singing out the lyrics and capturing the moment on their phones. The evening got more magical as he pulled up fan favourites from initial albums including, 'You Need Me, I Don't Need You' and 'Shape of You.'

Sheeran ended the show with 'Bad Habits' and a heartfelt thank you, "It's Saturday night, you all could have been anywhere but you chose to be here. I am very grateful," and we couldn't agree more.

The concert was a part of Ed Sheeran's six city tour in India organised by BookMyShow Live.

FILM REVIEW

A bland, befuddling sequel

Vivek MV

Director Vijaya Prasad transitioned from television to films with his State-Award winning feature debut *Sidlingu* in 2012. The film centred on a youngster's infatuation and tracked his coming-of-age journey.

Apart from some melodious tracks, Yogi's earnest performance was the film's highlight. It was refreshing to see Ramya, a much sought-after actor during that period, play an unconventional heroine as she realistically portrayed the role of a school teacher.

Sidlingu was about the titular character losing his loved ones as he pursued his passion for cars. The rawness with which the film unfolded was a welcome change for the Kannada audience. Vijaya Prasad's bold choices paid dividends in his sophomore film, *Neer Dose*, in which three odd-ball characters came together to challenge the society that treats them as misfits.

However, his subsequent movies (*Petromax* and *Thothapuri* were forgettable while *Thothapuri 2* just about worked) suffered from a similar template. The films resembled each other so much that the bored audience cried for change.

Unfortunately, their hope for something different from *Sidlingu 2*, Vijaya Prasad's latest offering, will be dashed.

Before the film's release, the director repeatedly spoke about wanting to correct the mistakes that caused his previous films to bomb at the box office. He promised people that his future films would be devoid of lines laced with innuendos.

Perhaps, a little introspection would have made the director realise that adult comedy is his strength. The genre is explored sporadically in Kannada cinema. Vijaya Prasad failed to succeed in the genre, thanks to his love for excessive usage of double entendre, resulting in his products appearing stale.

The sequel to his debut film is also about the protagonist's love for cars. In the movie, Sidlingu wishes to get back his dream car, which he lost in the first film. Like in all Vijaya Prasad films, a bunch of contrasting people come together to help the protagonist in his pursuit.

Of course, the director continues to write lonely characters from the lower strata of the society (a housemaid, a cemetery caretaker etc). Vijay Prasad attempts his first "clean comedy" and delivers a bland sequel with hardly any high points. The situations and some gags are silly. The director also needs to let go of his habit of using films as a platform to preach. In *Sidlingu 2,* the protagonist doesn't let go of a chance to advise people about respecting women, being generous in life, and controlling greed.

The background score, shot compositions, and production value resemble a television serial. Cinema has often proven that it's difficult for directors to bank on their past success. *Sidlingu 2* is yet another example.

Sidlingu 2 is currently running in theatres

Done and dusted A still from *Sidlingu 2*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sidlingu 2 (Kannada)
Director: Vijaya Prasad
Cast: Yogi, Sonu Gowda, Manjunath Hegde, Suman Ranganath
Runtime: 150 minutes
Storyline: The sequel to the 2013 film continues the journey of the titular character, who makes new friends in his bid to realise his dream of getting back his favourite car

27 girls in Walayar died by suicide from 2012 to 2022: CBI

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

CBI submitted the figures to court to substantiate its finding in death of two girl siblings

Twenty-seven minor girls died by suicide in the Walayar region of Kerala between 2012 and 2022.

The figure was revealed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the chargesheet filed in the case concerning the sexual assault on, and deaths of, two Walayar sisters in 2017.

A total of 305 cases were filed in the region under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act during the decade, the CBI said.

A history of unnatural deaths among girl siblings on the maternal side of the deceased Walayar children was reported by the agency.

It included the death of two sisters, aged 17 and 11, on February 22, 1996. The post-mortem report of the girls indicated the cause of death as poisoning in the blood.

POCSO cases

The Central agency submitted a chart to the CBI court in Kochi. It said that 305 POCSO cases were registered from 2012 to December 20, 2022, and gave details of 27 cases in which girls under the age of 18 died in the border police stations of Palakkad district during the period.

The CBI submitted in the court a 101-page report, which contained statistics of children, aged below 13, taking their lives by hanging from 2010 to 2023.

The agency has compiled the list of minors ending their lives by hanging in an apparent effort to substantiate its finding that the deaths of the Walayar girls were suicides.

The investigation agency collected statements from some friends of the younger girl in the case, who reported that she wished to choose the same path as her sister.

Unaware of law

A senior police officer, who was involved in the Walayar invesigation, said, "A large number of the inhabitants of the region are poor and illiterate who pay less attention to their children and are unaware of the legal safeguards for children and the implications of violation of laws."

"One or two cases of sexual assault on minor girls had surfaced in Walayar after nearly two-and-a-half years of the commission of the offence. It was the hue and cry over the Walayar case that led to the surfacing of the incidents, which had gone unreported for a few years, " said the official on condition of anonymity.

(Those in distress could seek help by calling any of the following numbers: DISHA - 1056, 0471-2552056, State's health helpline 104, Maithri - 0484-2540530, Thanal Suicide Prevention Centre - 0495-2760000)

Bird flu scare: Poultry market hit ahead of Ramzan

Red meat prices have surged following an increasing consumer shift and mutton sellers are struggling to keep up with the soaring demand, especially with Ramzan approaching

Naveen Kumar
HYDERABAD

Poultry vendors in Hyderabad are facing heavy losses due to the bird flu threat. NAGARA GOPAL

The bird flu scare in Hyderabad has led to a sharp decline in chicken prices with demand plummeting, while red meat prices have surged following an increasing consumer shift. Poultry vendors are facing heavy losses, while mutton sellers are struggling to keep up with the soaring demand, especially with Ramzan approaching.

Syed Hashmi, owner of Taj Chicken Centre in Baba Nagar Colony, Mallapur, highlighted the drastic drop in sales: "Chicken prices have fallen from ₹210 to ₹195 per kilogram, but even that isn't helping. I usually sell around 200 chickens a day, but now I am struggling to sell even 10, even on a Sunday."

Another vendor from Venkatapuram noted the sharp price fluctuations. "Mutton was earlier being sold at ₹700 per kilogram, but now it is ₹900-1,000. Chicken, which was ₹240 per kilogram, has dropped to ₹190. Even egg prices have fallen – from ₹190 per tray (30 eggs) about 15 days ago to ₹155 now," he said.

A mutton vendor with outlets across Alwal shared how business has changed dramatically: "Last Sunday, we brought in 20 goats, and they were sold out by noon. Before COVID-19, we used to stock 18-20 goats on Sundays, which lasted the entire day. Even after the pandemic, Sunday demand was around 15 goats. But now, the demand is skyrocketing."

With Ramzan approaching, vendors are bracing for even higher prices. "Rates could touch ₹1,000-1,500 per kilogram during the festive season. In KPHB, mutton is already selling for ₹1,200 per kilogram. We are currently selling it for ₹900 a kilogram and ₹1,100 for boneless mutton. This Sunday alone, we sold 244 kilograms. Next Sunday, we will have to figure out how to meet the soaring demand," said another vendor.

Karnataka on high alert following H5N1 outbreak in neighbouring States

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following an outbreak of avian flu (H5N1) in South India, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Karnataka's Health Department is on high alert.

While the virus primarily affects birds and human infections are rare and require direct contact with infected poultry, the State's top health officials met on Monday evening to discuss the situation and ensure preventive measures are initiated.

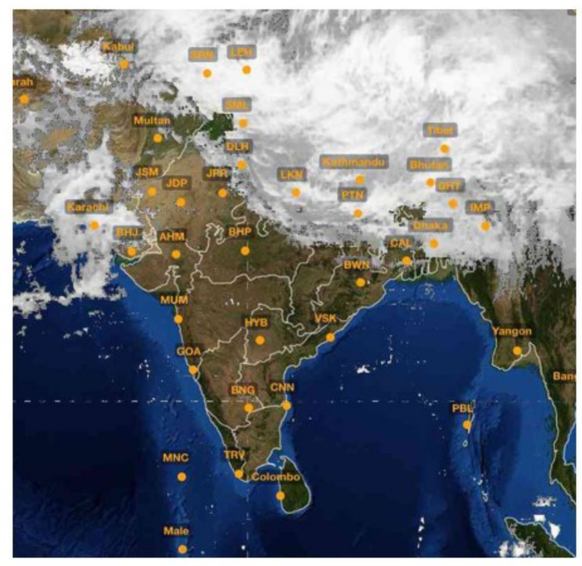
At the meeting chaired by Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health, officials have been directed to step up surveillance.

Ansar Ahmed, State Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, told *The Hindu* that there was no need to panic, as only those who were in contact with the infected birds and health workers examining poultry workers are at risk.

"We are sensitising our field workers to spread awareness about preventive measures. While it is crucial to avoid contact with infected animals and maintain hand hygiene when handling birds or wild animals, use of protective clothing such as gloves, goggles and masks is advisable when working with birds and wild animals," he added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.8	16.8	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	34.8	19.2	Kurnool	—	37.9	21.3
Aizawl	—	29.2	10.3	Lucknow	—	29.5	14.0
Allahabad	—	32.0	14.8	Madurai	—	34.5	22.1
Bengaluru	—	32.6	18.2	Mangaluru	—	33.5	23.6
Bhopal	—	31.8	15.0	Mumbai	—	33.4	18.5
Bhubaneswar	—	33.6	21.4	Mysuru	—	33.8	13.9
Chandigarh	—	27.9	9.6	New Delhi	—	29.0	11.2
Chennai	—	32.0	24.0	Patna	—	28.5	16.5
Coimbatore	—	34.0	21.0	Port Blair	—	30.6	22.1
Dehradun	—	27.3	9.6	Puducherry	—	32.0	22.7
Gangtok	1	10.0	7.0	Pune	—	38.3	18.5
Goa	—	36.0	24.0	Raipur	—	35.0	18.4
Guwahati	—	27.4	11.9	Ranchi	—	30.4	15.6
Hubballi	—	36.0	18.0	Shillong	—	18.2	3.8
Hyderabad	—	35.4	18.6	Shimla	—	20.4	8.4
Imphal	—	25.7	14.2	Srinagar	—	14.2	2.1
Jaipur	—	29.5	17.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.4	22.7
Kochi	—	31.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	32.7	22.0
Kohima	—	19.9	7.5	Vijayawada	—	33.5	21.8
Kolkata	—	32.6	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.7	23.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.48	.33	.22	201	159	
Bengaluru	.13	3	.14	61	104	
Chennai	.20	—	100	69	69	
Delhi	.23	.91	103	306	284	
Hyderabad	.14	.50	.96	104	119	
Kolkata	.10	.48	.27	74	92	
Lucknow	.15	.75	.61	275	209	
Mumbai	.42	.54	—	124	166	
Pune	.21	136	.58	152	128	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.60	.25	67	102	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 269 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

By E_Mail/e-Despatch. E-Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344. Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 368 for 2024-25.
Letter No.534 Date:15.02.2025

1. Name of the Work :- Post DLP Maintenance of PMGSY Road Works in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-2025.
2. Total No. of work :- **05 Nos. (Five)**
3. Estimated Cost :- **Rs.38.72 Lakhs to Rs.329.48 Lakhs** (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion :- As per Annexure
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada. Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada. Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Road On-line N.C.B. No.368	Dt.20.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.06.03.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.	Dt.04.03.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.	Dt.07.03.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only .

O-1491 **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada**
OIPR-25130/11/0019/2425

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08539-221895
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ. : 08539-221235
e-mail : itstaff_dudc_koppal@yahoo.com

ಸಂ.ಕಂ.ಡಿ.ಯು.ಡಿ.ಸಿ(ಕೊ)/ಅ.ನ.ಹಂ–4/ನ.ಗಂ/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–02–2025

-:: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::-
-:: (THROUGH E PROCUREMENT) ::-

The Executive engineer Koppal District, Koppal invites tenders from Contractor who are eligible for Chief Minister Amruth Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Scheme, in CMC Gangavati limit Koppal District of Karnataka State as per price schedule listed in E-Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

SlNo.	Brief Descriptions	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (in Lakhs)	Period of Completion (Months)
1	TENDER INDENT No.DMA/2024-25/RD/ WORK_INDENT28756/CALL-2	2434.91	20.63	18

1)	Available of Tender forms (Through Online)	18.02.2025 Morning at 9:00 AM.
2)	Last date and time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications	28.02.2025 Evening at 5:30 PM.
3)	Last Date of Submission Tender	05.03.2025 Evening at 5:30 PM.
4)	Date of Opening Tenders (Technical Bid)	07.03.2025 Morning at 11:00 AM.
5)	Date of Opening Tenders (Financial Bid)	12.03.2025 Morning at 11:30 AM or Onwards

Sd/- Executive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell, Koppal

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-2/TND/2024-25/4399 Date : 14/02/2025

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of CC Road and C.C. Drain to 25 Various Villages in Chittapur Consstituency Indent No. as follow (1) 12853 (2) 12857 (3) 12886 (4) 12863 (5) 12861 (6)12876 (7) 12882 (8) 12875 (9) 12865 (10) 12880 (11) 12866 (12) 12874 (13) 12852 (14) 12868 (15) 12858 (16) 12859 (17) 12883 (18) 12881 (19) 12900 (20) 12877 (21) 12872 (22) 12888 (23) 12878 (24) 12526 (25) 12778 **Total 25 Works**, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB for the year 2024-25 & 2025-26,** 3) Amount put to tender: **Minimum Rs. 85,03,812.98, Maximum Rs. 1,86,79,150.58**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **15-02-2025 to 03-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 2,00,000.00, Maximum Rs. 2,80,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **15-02-2025 to 03-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **04-03-2025 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **05-03-2025 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/973/KSMC&A/2024-25 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–576101.

Web: www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in Phone: 0820-2520446/2520306
Email: itstaff_ulb_udupi@yahoo.com Fax : 0820-2524236

No.: UCMC/HS/STP-MP/CR-36/2024-25 Date: 17/02/2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಸಿ–8 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 04.03.2025. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ
1	**Tenders for the work of providing Manpower Services like Plant In charge, Supervisor, Helpers, Pump Operator, Watchman, Mechanic Cum Electrician to sewage treatment plant and Sucking Machine drivers cum Operators and sucking machine Helpers, weighbridge operator cum Computer Operator to STP in the limits of Udupi City Municipal council (Total 26 Members)**	DMA/2024-25/SE4636	Rs. 67.76 Lakhs	Rs. 1,35,522.00/-

ಸಹಿ/–,
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ – 576101.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West-2	BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025 (Reserved for Category II(A))	Rs. 92,39,660/- / Rs. 1,84,800/-	27.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM	01.03.2025 After 10.30 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025	Rs. 87,76,396/- / Rs. 1,75,528/-		
3		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025 (Reserved for SC)	Rs. 79,42,488/- / Rs. 79,500/-		
4		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025	Rs. 61,46,148/- / Rs. 1,23,000/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025	Rs. 82,76,131/- / Rs. 1,65,600/-		
6		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025 (Call-5)	Rs. 6,41,601/- / Rs. 16,000/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/4101/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025	Rs. 3,53,505/- / Rs. 8,900/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/5106/Zen/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Zonal Joint Commissioner, R.R.Nagara Zone, Ideal Homes, 18th Cross, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560098.

No. BBMP/ZJC(RRN)/TEND/02/2024-25 Date: 14.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Zonal Joint Commissioner, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Service	EMD Amount
1	Supply of Data Entry Operator Service for 11 Months for the year 2024-25, R.R. Nagara Zone.	Rs. 2,24,000/-
	Period of Service : **11 Months.**	

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 20.02.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (2)** Last date for tender queries **: 24.02.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (3)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 28.02.2025 at 3.00 pm. (4)** Last date for submission of tenders: **13.03.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **14.03.2025 at 4.30 pm. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Zonal Joint Commissioner
R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

No:A4:DTS: March-2025 :Sale-3:CR-5:2024-25 Date: 10 .02 .2025

DETAILED NOTIFICATION FOR e-TENDER CUM AUCTION OF TIMBER IN MUNDGOD AND KIRWATTI DEPOT OF YELLAPUR DIVISION, YELLAPUR

KARNATAKA FOREST CODE, 1976
APPENDIX XVIII A (Rule 64)

ಅಪರ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ) ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಅಪ್ರಮುಅಸಂ(ಅಸಂ.ನಿ)ಬಿ3:ಸೇಲ್ಸ್;ಸಿಆರ್–06:2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:–20.01.2025 ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 168 FDP 2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ:14–11–2017 ಮತ್ತು 27–02–2018, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ FEE 25 FDP 2020 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.08.2022

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, the following kinds and quantity of timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the Mundgod and Kirwatti Government Timber Depots of Yellapur Division, Yellapur will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in MSTC portal for one or more sessions from **04.03.2025, 05.03.2025, 06.03.2025 (All four sessions) at Govt timber Depot Kirwattid depot, from 07.03.2025, 10.03.2025, 11.03.2025 (All four sessions) at Govt timber Depot Mundgod** from 10.00 A.M till the bidding for all lots is completed. The Sale Conducting Officer will be The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yellapur Division, Yellapur.

FOR ANY CLARIFICATIONS, YOU CAN CONTACT:
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Kirwatti:
acfgtdkwt@gmail.com Phone No.08419-238534
The Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt Timber Depot, Mundgod:
acfgtdmundgod@gmail.com Phone No. 08301-222152
The Deputy Conservator of Forests,Yellapur division,Yellapur:
yellapurdcf5@yahoo.com, dcfyellapur@gmail.com
Phone no.08419-261273
Sri Damodar Manager MSTC Limited,Bengaluru
Mobile No 98410022252 / 9535347426 / 9980147110

Sd/- Harsha Bhanu G.P. IFS
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Yellapur Division, Yellapur

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/895/24-25 Dt.15.02.2025

Mela and melee

People's safety should be prioritised over footfall at Maha Kumbh

The Maha Kumbh Mela that is ongoing in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, has showcased the gaping maw between the Centre's and the State's plans for such a large event and what they believe are sufficient resources to conduct it. Ahead of the mela, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and their cabinet colleagues had touted the special arrangements made for the mela, including a surveillance system equipped with artificial intelligence to track crowds, water filters to keep the rivers clean, a makeshift town replete with hospitals and special-purpose trains and buses. But they have not sufficed. There have been numerous reports of people being frustrated at the venue and during journeys to and from there. The mela's under-management, simmering just below the surface, was transformed to outright mismanagement by the deaths of people in a crowd crush on January 29. The confused response by the Indian Railways to another crush at the New Delhi railway station, on February 15, indicated the Centre's unwillingness to countenance the disaster, on the back of an expense of ₹7,500 crore for the mela and its various hi-tech preparations. Such preparations, however, cannot make up for changes that need to be made over time, such as redeveloping a local railway station.

Officials were reluctant to confirm that people had died even as local hospitals were confirming deaths. In one particularly unfair statement, a Deputy Commissioner of Police (Railways) blamed "unnecessary" rush at the New Delhi railway station for the "catastrophe". The consensus among fire safety experts worldwide is that such events occur when there is external cause for a group to panic, whether lacking the money to buy another ticket should they miss a train or suffering injuries due to unsafe pedestrian conditions. A preliminary probe revealed that the Railways had sold 2,600 additional tickets, and an announcement at the station of the arrival of a different train rendered this confused mass of passengers to attempt to reach the wrong platform. The Railways has now said that special trains for the mela will depart from one fixed platform at the station. Such interventions that are already well known to experts – including clear, multilingual communications, restricted ticketing, and proactive crowd control – could have mitigated the tragedy. Many less prominent gathering places still lack attention *vis-à-vis* public safety. Both the Centre and States should eliminate these risks, post-haste, if the Centre's plans to increase footfall at places of worship are not to lead to more catastrophe. While encouraging spiritual tourism, the hype around hosting 45 crore people at the Maha Kumbh Mela, absurdly impossible as it sounds, should be toned down so as not to feed a political frenzy. The governments must be careful that the cost of fulfilling political aspirations is not paid for in terms of human lives.

End of intrigue

India and Pakistan must reach a broader consensus on sports

In a cricket calendar packed with international fixtures and domestic T20 leagues, the ICC Champions Trophy has managed to endure. The ODI and T20 World Cups, along with the ICC World Test Championship, remain the marquee global events, and the Champions Trophy once seemed expendable. However, the desire for an ICC-branded tournament almost every year, coupled with its commercial appeal, has ensured its survival. Now, the ninth edition kicks off in Karachi on Wednesday, with host Pakistan facing New Zealand. The tournament, however, was nearly derailed by the ever-present political tensions between India and Pakistan. India initially refused to tour Pakistan, jeopardising the event, but a compromise was reached: India's matches will be played in Dubai. Rohit Sharma's men will play all their Group A fixtures in the UAE, and if they reach the final, the title clash will also be held there. Once again, a global cricket tournament has been tainted by geopolitical disputes, an issue that will persist until India's and Pakistan's leaderships arrive at a broader consensus, including on sports. India begins its campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on Thursday.

After a disappointing 1-3 Test series loss in Australia, India is seeking redemption in the Champions Trophy through the ODI format. A recent 3-0 home sweep against England provided momentum, but the real challenge awaits India under the West Asian skies. Rohit, under scrutiny for his form, found some respite with a century against England, but he and his team will need to deliver more to get to the end stage of the tournament. Beating Pakistan, technically the tournament host, at a neutral venue, will add some drama to the political intrigue. The absence of injured pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will be felt, though Mohammed Shami's return offers some relief. Adding to the emotional weight of this tournament is the possibility that it could be the final ICC event for Rohit, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja. Having won the ICC T20 World Cup last year, India is determined to reclaim the Champions Trophy, last won in 2013. Beyond India-Pakistan intrigue, Australia remains a strong contender, despite missing its pace-bowling trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, and Josh Hazlewood. Meanwhile, the absence of West Indies and Sri Lanka from the tournament is another indicator of the shifting balance in international cricket.

Lighten the pollution burden of thermal power States

Amarendra Das

is an Associate Professor at the Department of Science and Technology Centre for Policy Research on Energy Transition, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, an autonomous institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India

Naneshwar Jagat

is a PhD scholar at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar

In its first updated Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in August 2022, India has committed to first, adopting a climate-friendly and cleaner path to economic development; second, reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from the 2005 level, and third, achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 along with other six commitments. Currently, thermal power has the dominant share in India's electricity basket. Under the new regime, thermal power will also have a 50% share.

An agent of emissions

Thermal power production results in a huge amount of carbon emission. The power producing States bear the burden of all this pollution to provide electricity to the consuming States. So, who should pay for the pollution burdens of thermal power plants? This article looks at thermal power production under the central sector and recommended compensation mechanisms for thermal power producing States.

India has a total installed capacity of 4,56,757 MW in which the central sector has 22.9% share, the State sector has 23.7% and the private sector, a 53.4% share. Out of the total electricity generation capacity from thermal power plants (2,37,268.91 MW), private sector power plants have a capacity of 85,899.095 MW (36.20%), the State sector has 75,991.905 MW (32.03%), and the central sector has the capacity of 75377.91 MW (31.77%). Central sector power plants which are located in several States, have 31.77 % of the total electricity generation capacity. NITI Aayog data show that India accounts for 20,794.36 kg of carbon emission from electricity generation.

According to the Ministry of Coal, Government of India (April 1, 2023), the total reserves of coal in India are 378.21 billion tonnes, of which Odisha alone accounts for 94.52 billion tonnes. Around 59.12% of the total energy supply in India is from coal. In India, around 73.08% (11,80,427.19 million units) and 1.48% (23,885.04 million units) of electricity are generated from coal, oil and natural gas, respectively, in 2022-23. Thus, the thermal power sector remains a major contributor to carbon emissions in India.

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Maharashtra had the highest non-renewable electricity generation capacity (31,510.08 MegaWatt or MW), followed by Uttar Pradesh (26,729.374 MW) and Gujarat (26,073.41 MW) in 2022-23. Rajasthan had the highest renewable electricity generation capacity in India at 22.398.05 MW of installation capacity. Despite having the highest electricity generation capacity, some States consume more than their generation.

Thermal power producing States need to be well compensated for bearing the burden of pollution while supplying electricity to power consuming States

Thermal electricity generation by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) also shows that the States producing the maximum electricity do not consume most of it – Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh only consume 40%, 38.43%, and 29.92%, respectively, of the electricity produced by NTPC in their respective State. Gujarat is the biggest consumer of NTPC produced electricity (4,612 MW) despite the State's meagre generation of 17.7 MW by the NTPC. Gujarat and Maharashtra purchase electricity from different States from what is produced by the central sector and in other sectors.

Thermal electricity-producing States bear a disproportionate pollution burden when compared to the consuming State. Data from the CEA show that Tripura has the highest (96.96%) share of thermal power in the total electricity generation capacity, followed by Bihar (95.57%), Chhattisgarh (94.35%), Jharkhand (92.69%), Delhi (87.96%), West Bengal (87.72%), and Uttar Pradesh (81.84%). Not all the electricity generated in the State is being utilised inside the State. Bihar sold 16,529.62 MW of electricity in 2022-23.

NITI Aayog data show that Chhattisgarh is the highest net seller of electricity among all Indian States with 535.29 MW in 2022-23, followed by Madhya Pradesh (379.19 MW), Himachal Pradesh (153.43 MW), Rajasthan (135.14 MW), Odisha (95.40 MW) and Meghalaya (55.22 MW). These are the States where the central sector produces more thermal electricity and sells to others. Gujarat is the highest importer of electricity (528.17 MW), followed by Haryana (212.63 MW), Maharashtra (187.50 MW), Delhi (162.97 MW), Punjab (160.82 MW), and Tamil Nadu (128.37 MW) in the year 2022-23.

No compensation

India's electricity and environmental regulatory structures do not compensate States that generate electricity from central sector thermal power plants. Therefore, net exporting States of central sector power producers bear the burden of all pollution, and net importing States enjoy clean electricity. Central sector thermal power is mainly produced in coal-rich States such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Even though coal-rich States produce the maximum thermal electricity, per capita electricity consumption remains substantially lower than other economically better-off States. Thus the coal-rich States face a new form of resource curse.

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme, although thermal power-producing companies spend a small amount of funds to develop the periphery, this is far from compensating for environmental damage. The National Clean Energy and Environment Fund was created to promote renewable energy, and to assist States with cleaner technology.

Electricity is a Concurrent subject (Entry 38 of List III of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution), which allows both the central and State governments to legislate on electricity matters. States are constitutionally permitted to levy taxes on electricity consumption and sale, but not on its generation. Similarly, the central government does not impose any specific tax on electricity production.

In October 2023, the Ministry of Power issued a directive that prohibits State governments from levying additional taxes or duties on electricity generation, clarifying the constitutional boundaries. As a commodity, electricity is exempt from Goods and Services Tax (GST). Services related to electricity transmission or distribution by utilities are also GST-exempt. Therefore, the consuming States receive the electricity duty levied on electricity sales. The electricity-producing States do not get any tax revenue but only the burden of pollution.

A formulation to pursue

Electricity produced and consumed within the State internalises all the benefits and costs. However, when the electricity is produced in one State and consumed in another, it creates a pure negative externality for the producing State. In such a situation, the States producing thermal power under the central sector should be compensated for all the electricity consumed by other States.

This can be done in two ways. States where central sector power plants are located can tax thermal power generation. Otherwise, the Union government can collect and transfer the generation tax to the producing State. The other mechanism would be a compensation mechanism through the Finance Commission of India. The last three Finance Commissions have recommended a formula to transfer funds to States under environmental and climate change concerns. This has been done through grants and horizontal devolution criteria. The Sixteenth Finance Commission should seriously consider India's international climate commitments and develop a fiscal road map to achieve those goals. Whatever the mechanism, thermal power-producing States under the central sector should be compensated adequately for carrying the burden of other States' electricity consumption.

Georgia and the resurrection of the colour revolutions

Amitabh Singh

teaches at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Vivek Pandey

is a PhD candidate at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

With the dawn of the 21st century, post-Soviet States experienced a wave of uprisings known as the "colour revolutions". The movements were associated with specific colours and were largely peaceful protests to replace pro-Moscow governments with a pro-West government in the name of democratic reforms. Though they were non-violent, peaceful and democratic, the Russian elites often perceived them to be western-backed strategies in order to weaken Moscow's sphere of influence.

The most notable examples include Georgia's Rose Revolution (2003), Ukraine's Orange Revolution (2004), and Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution (2005). These protests, on the face of it, appeared peaceful and democratic. Still, these movements received active help from western governments and organisations such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), formed during the Cold War to support and promote American social and political values.

The Russian view

British strategist B.H. Liddell Hart's concept of fighting "on the other side of the hill" aptly describes such an approach which prioritised destabilisation and political subversion over confrontation. Russia viewed such movements as threats to its influence in neighbouring States and as a model that could inspire similar challenges within its borders. This perspective extended beyond former Soviet space, with Russia and other powers, including China, seeing these revolutions as a blueprint for low-cost, high-impact interventions in regions such as West Asia, Africa, Central Asia and South Asia.

The fate of these 'colour revolutions' was not up to the expectations for which they were brought about – that is, transforming these States, most of them with primordial loyalties, into a corruption-free western ally. Very soon the changes that resulted failed to ameliorate the situation on the ground. One set of corrupt people was replaced by another set of corrupt people owing their allegiance and political ideas to the West. The people gradually became frustrated and public disillusionment over unfulfilled expectations also arose. The long-term failures of these patterns of transitions have highlighted the limits of these externally-driven democratic experiments.

Whether soft power strategies such as promoting democracy through the colour revolutions are still effective is the question

The Rose Revolution 2.0

Georgia's Rose Revolution is a pivotal example of this phenomenon. This movement replaced the then President Eduard Shevardnadze with a pro-West President, Mikheil Saakashvili. Initially celebrated as a victory for democratic values, it became increasingly evident that the 'revolution's' success was facilitated by western backing, and the movement was given financial and logistical support by patrons in the West, especially the United States. Soon after the election, the Saakashvili regime became synonymous with corruption, authoritarianism and undemocratic practices, further maligning the movement's character.

Two decades later, a similar scenario is unfolding in Georgia. Recent parliamentary and presidential elections have reignited passions, with the ruling Georgian Dream party securing a decisive and clear victory. One of the outcomes of these elections was the change of guard in the presidential office. The Georgian Dream Party candidate, Mikheil Kavelashvili, a former footballer, was elected President.

The former President, Salome Zourabichvili, who had initially refused to vacate the office and the presidential palace in favour of the incumbent President, agreed to leave, calling herself the 'only legitimate President'. She also alleged that the parliamentary and presidential elections were marred by electoral malpractices and corruption, and hence 'illegitimate'. Ms. Zourabichvili was empathetic towards the protests against the 'illegitimate' elections and joined in the street protests.

The ruling party alleged that these protests were organised at the behest of the West through non-governmental organisations funded by them – proving their contention about external interferences in Georgia's internal matters. This is not without precedent. The post-Soviet space has long been a battleground for competing geopolitical agendas, with western-backed 'movements' challenging Moscow-aligned regimes.

There is a relative downgrade in the position that Russia held prior to its war with Ukraine, at least in the short term. Russia is more focused on its ties with the 'Near Abroad', but this narrative often underestimates Russia's enduring resilience as a significant power in the post-Soviet space.

Protests in Georgia have also coincided with a period of heightened global anxiety over the role that the U.S. might play, with Donald Trump now the American President. Internal challenges have limited Washington's capacity to engage decisively in Georgia. As a result, the effectiveness of soft power strategies such as promoting democracy through colour revolutions, is waning.

The importance of Georgia

Georgia's strategic positioning, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, makes it a focal point for major power struggles. Its geography and historical vulnerabilities have left it susceptible to external influences, positioning it as a pawn in broader geopolitical contests. Georgian politics illustrates the challenges of balancing domestic governance with external pressures in an increasingly complex world. As the U.S. grapples with its diminishing global influence and Russia continues to assert its role as a regional power, Georgia is deftly managing its relationships with both East and West.

The broader implications of this struggle extend beyond Georgia, shaping the political trajectories of other post-Soviet States that are caught in the crossfire of competing geopolitical agendas. Whether the colour revolution model remains a viable tool for political change or fades into history as a relic of early 21st-century geopolitics will depend on the evolving dynamics of international relations, testing the resilience of States navigating these turbulent times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transparency and the judge

It is rather surprising that Harish Salve has taken exception to former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's interview to the BBC on sensitive matters. If judges are to speak only through their judgments — as Mr. Salve has said so — it should equally apply to lawyers. Their arguments should be confined within the four walls of the court. If Mr. Salve's argument was to be accepted seriously, it would mean the end of democracy because journalists are the media through whom people raise questions and demand answers.

We have seen in recent times how many judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court express their views on judgments after their retirement. This is but a healthy form of discussion. That way many doubts are clarified. The judges also know that they are in public life and ought to acquit themselves well. Further, it was Justice Chandrachud who brought in live streaming of court proceedings, thereby increasing transparency. The media plays a crucial role in ensuring the accountability of persons occupying important places in public life.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

On Sanskrit

I am a retired bank officer and aged 90. I wish to record my views on the subject of Sanskrit. The denouncing of the Sanskrit language by a particular Member of Parliament (MP) from Tamil Nadu is unfortunate. I do not know what the MP hopes to achieve thereby.

He must know that the Sanskrit language originated from Vedic times, undergoing several refinements till the time of Sage Vyasa. Sanskrit has been the source of knowledge in very many fields including science, medicine, physiology and musicology, to name only a few. It is also the source of inspiration for several Indian and European languages. I earnestly hope that the MP stops expressing biased views as he should be made aware of the glory that adorns the Sanskrit language.

V. Srinivasan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Trump and the new gilded age for billionaires

Nissim Mannathukkaren

Professor, Department of International Development Studies, Dalhousie University, Canada. He is on X @nmannathukkaren

If Donald Trump's first administration was the wealthiest in American history, his second one has spectacularly beaten it. Its total worth is around $460 billion and 16 of its members are billionaires.

A democratic polity in which 0.0001% of its population has vastly disproportionate control over its political and economic decisions displays tendencies of an oligarchy. This is in a society in which the top 1% already controls 31% of its wealth.

The super wealthy in a democracy often influence public policy indirectly, by lobbying and by sponsoring other candidates. The wealthiest families contributed around $2 billion to the 2024 U.S. elections. But when the ultra-rich become a direct part of the administration, it gives political power a different magnitude. For instance, Elon Musk, the richest person in the world, after contributing $250 million to the Trump campaign, is now leading the Department of Government Efficiency. Research establishes a negative relationship between politically connected billionaire wealth and democracy.

The impact on the people

Wealth in itself should not prevent a citizen from joining government. But the problem is in the potential conflicts of interests despite measures such as American ethics laws and financial disclosures. In the Trump administration, the Commerce Secretary is the CEO of a financial services firm; the Treasury Secretary is the owner of an investment fund management firm; the NASA Administrator is a pioneer in private space exploration; and the 'White House A.I. and Crypto Czar' is a former senior executive of PayPal.

There is a fundamental disjuncture between public interest and the market. As a researcher asks, "Will someone who earns $14 million per day be able to appreciate how important $1,976.00 (the average monthly social security payment) is to millions of Americans?" When Mr. Musk, who has promised to cut $2 trillion off the $ 6.75 trillion U.S. budget, says that budget cuts involve "some temporary hardship," it is painfully ironic. While Mr. Musk holds 100 business contracts with the American government, Mr. Trump's firings are stalling over 30 investigations into Mr. Musk's companies by 11 federal agencies.

Studies show there are significant differences between the views of the top 1% of U.S. wealth-holders and the public on taxation, economic regulation, and social welfare programmes. While 87% of the general citizenry agree that the government should fund good public schools, only 35% of the top 1% think so.

The influence of the wealthy elite on public policy is often disastrous. Mr. Trump's slogan during the campaign trail was "drill, baby, drill" and the U.S. duly withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement. In his first term, the Tax Cuts and Job Act gave 80% of tax benefits to corporations and high-net-worth individuals. It also exacerbated racial income and wealth inequalities besides increasing the government deficit. The first Trump term diluted the Affordable Care Act in health, leading to a rise in uninsured Americans.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump is only a manifestation of socioeconomic changes heralded since the inauguration of neoliberal capitalism (under Ronald Reagan), with unbridled market powers. The results are staggering. As the complexity scientist Peter Turchin points out: the number of decamillionaires (households worth $10 million) exploded from 66,000 in 1983 to 6,93,000 in 2019. This led to an "overproduction of wealthy people" and the increase in the number of the wealthy seeking political power. According to the Economic Policy Institute, if from 1945 to 1973, the wages of most workers kept pace with productivity, from 1973 to 2013, compensation of a typical worker rose 9% while productivity rose 74%. In the same period, middle-class wages remained stagnant, low-wage workers' wages declined by 5%, and those of very high-wage workers rose by 41%. If in 1965, the CEOs of the 350 largest public U.S. firms earned 20 times that of the typical worker in those firms, by the early 2000s, they were earning 383 times of the typical worker's pay. The federal minimum wage, in real terms, was higher in 1968 compared to 2013.

Bipartisan issue

The implosion of the working classes and wealth concentration is a phenomenon that spans governments of both parties. If 14 billionaires donated to the Trump campaign, 21 did to the Kamala Harris campaign; if Trump's first cabinet was worth $ 6.2 billion, Barack Obama's second cabinet was worth $ 2.8 billion; and if corporate profits touched $2 trillion (after hovering around $1.8 trillion since 2012) under Mr. Trump, they skyrocketed to $3.17 trillion in 2024 under Joe Biden. The majority of the working classes voted for Mr. Trump while a majority of the college graduates voted for Ms. Harris.

What Mr. Trump has managed to do is to, ironically, tap into the anger of the economically dispossessed. This anger combines with existing racial hatred and is made to coagulate into fascist political imaginations. As the philosopher Richard Rorty had predicted in 1998: "...the nonsuburban electorate will decide that the system has failed and start looking around for a strongman to vote for... the gains made in the past 40 years by black and brown Americans, and by homosexuals, will be wiped out."

In the U.S., only 3.5% of billionaires have entered politics unlike China (36%) and Russia (21%). Yet, the plutocratization of the oldest democracy and the world's most powerful nation has deleterious implications beyond the shores of America.

The influence of the wealthy elite on public policy is often disastrous

A proposed solution involving the States

A DMK MP is seeking to redraw the framework for disbursal of disaster relief funds

STATE OF PLAY

D. Suresh Kumar
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The disbursal of funds by the Union government to help States tackle the devastation caused by natural disasters continues to be mired in controversy. Tamil Nadu had urged the Union government to release ₹6,675 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) so that the State can carry out the relief and restoration work required after Cyclone Fengal affected 14 districts, claimed 40 lives, and caused widespread destruction in the State last December. This demand was not heeded in the Union Budget.

In the past couple of years, Tamil Nadu has been facing back-to-back disasters, starting from Cyclone Michaung and floods in the southern districts in December 2023. "The intensity and frequency of these weather systems have significantly increased, with some areas receiving an entire year's rainfall within 24 hours. Despite the State's best efforts in planning and preparation, these climatic anomalies result in considerable economic strain, draining the State's exchequer. The funds under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) have proven inadequate to meet the immediate relief and long-term restoration needs," the State Finance Minister, Thangam Thennarasu, had said at a meeting held before the presentation of the Union Budget.

The Centre had earlier released ₹944 crore, but Mr. Thennarasu contended that this was only a delayed disbursal of the Union government's regular 75% share of the SDRF. He said that the Union government had released "nothing under the NDRF", as sought by the Tamil Nadu government in the aftermath of Cyclone Fengal. Previously, the Centre had responded to the State's requirement of ₹37,907 crore after Cyclone Michaung by disbursing just ₹276 crore.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has denied that step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Tamil Nadu. She argued that the 14th Finance Commission had created a formula for allocating funds through the NDRF and SDRF. "The Central government cannot tweak it in favour of or against any State. The Finance Commission made it an institutional arrangement for States to receive funds upfront for disaster relief," she pointed out.

Against the backdrop of this conflict between the Centre and States, particularly those ruled by parties that are not part of the National Democratic Alliance, DMK Rajya Sabha MP, P. Wilson, has moved a Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005, seeking to tweak its structure and composition. The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to replace the National Disaster Management Authority with a National Disaster Management Council (NDMC). It proposes that the NDMC be chaired by the Prime Minister or a nominated Minister, with each State government nominating a Minister as a member. To ensure balance in its decisions, the Bill has proposed the requirement of a simple majority, with the Prime Minister or his/her nominee getting 15% of the total votes, while the remaining 85% is distributed among State representatives based on their representation in the Council of States (i.e. Rajya Sabha). To illustrate, if a State has 10% of the total seats of the Council of States, then its respective vote in the Council shall be worth 8.5% of the total vote of the National Council. The proposed NDMC will set guidelines for the NDRF to ensure fair distribution of emergency funds and timely decision on the disbursal of funds.

According to Mr. Wilson, the amendment aims to ensure that "there is a structured, transparent, and equitable mechanism for the allocation and utilisation of funds dedicated to disaster management," thereby ensuring that States severely affected by disasters are not left underfunded or neglected. Such a NDMC would prioritise funding based on the severity of disaster impact and the urgent needs of affected States.

Although Mr. Wilson's proposed legislation is only a Private Member's Bill and its broad contours would require wider debate and fine-tuning, it is bound to find resonance among elected representatives from States which, like Tamil Nadu, believe that there is a gap between the disaster relief funds they expect and the actual amount disbursed by the Centre. It is worth noting here that last year, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to release funds sought by them to tide over natural calamities.

Most deportees from the U.S. are from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat

While the latest wave of deportations to India from the U.S. has grabbed a lot of attention, it is not a new phenomenon

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

Of the 332 undocumented Indian immigrants who have been deported from the U.S. in 2025, people from Punjab accounted for the highest share (38%), followed by people from Haryana (33%), and Gujarat (22%), as shown in **Chart 1.** The remaining deportees were from Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and other States and UTs.

A recent research paper published by Johns Hopkins University also found that between October 2001 and November 2022, 66% of those who sought asylum in the U.S. were Punjabi speakers. Nearly 14% were Hindi speakers, 8% were English speakers, and 7% were Gujarati speakers. The paper showed a sharp spike in asylum seekers in the U.S. from India after 2016, with Punjabi speakers making up the majority.

In fact, all the three flights carrying Indian deportees from the U.S. this year landed at the Amritsar International Airport, leading to a controversy. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann alleged that the Centre is doing this intentionally to defame the State. The Centre argued that Amritsar is the closest international airport for flights entering India from the U.S.

While the latest wave of deportations has grabbed headlines since the deportees were handcuffed and chained during their journey, this is not a phenomenon that has emerged after U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed crackdown on illegal immigrants. Since 2009, 15,897 undocumented Indian immigrants have been deported from the U.S. **(Chart 2)**. Most deportations occurred in 2019 (2,042), followed by 2020 (1,889), and 2024 (1,368). It is also important to note that the number of Indians attempting to enter the U.S. illegally has surged in recent years. A decade ago, U.S. border authorities stopped not more than 1,500 Indian illegal migrants. This figure rose sharply to 96,917 in 2023 and 90,415 in 2024.

News reports have also highlighted how most Indian immigrants were deceived by fraudulent agents who promised them better prospects in exchange for hefty sums of money. The sum paid by Indians to illegally enter the U.S. ranged anywhere between ₹20 lakh and ₹1.25 crore.

A total of 3,042 illegal agents have been identified till June 2024 **(Chart 3)**, with the highest number of agents in Andhra Pradesh, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra. In the last four years, 4,361 complaints have been lodged against illegal agents for luring Indians with false recruitment offers.

Interviews with the deportees have shed light on the perilous journeys they undertake in search of a better life. A popular way of getting to the U.S. is through what is known as the "donkey route". This refers to the arduous journey across countries, forests, and seas, often without proper food and water. A section of the immigrants end up at the south-western border of the U.S. after travelling across dangerous routes such as the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia, while others go via the northern border of the U.S.

Chart 4 shows that Indians prefer both the Canadian (northern) and south-western (Mexican) borders to enter the U.S. illegally. A *New York Times* report shows that the sharp spike in illegal crossings from the Canadian border was majorly fuelled by Indians.

Apart from those attempting to enter the U.S. illegally, there are also many who have overstayed their visas after being admitted into the U.S. either for business, studies, or other purposes **(Chart 5)**. While such overstays have declined after the pandemic, close to 17,000 people overstay every year, with most of them having entered the U.S. for business or pleasure.

American nightmare

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha replies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Chart 1: State-wise share of Indian citizens deported from the U.S. in 2025

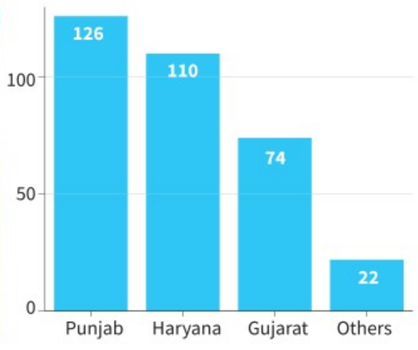
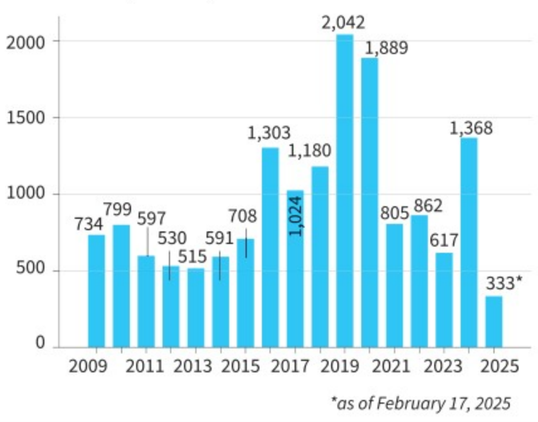


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of undocumented Indian immigrants deported from the U.S. since 2009



*as of February 17, 2025

Chart 3: The chart shows the State-wise share of illegal agents identified till June 2024

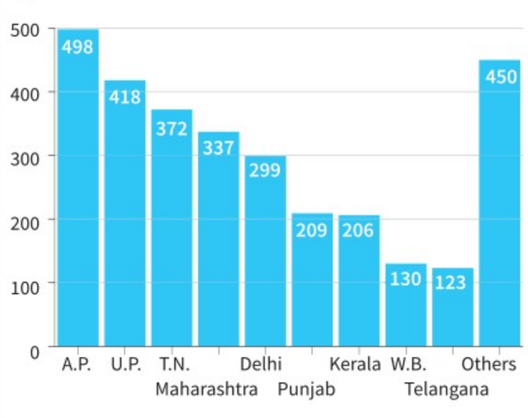


Chart 4: Number of Indian immigrants encountered at the southwestern and northern border to the U.S

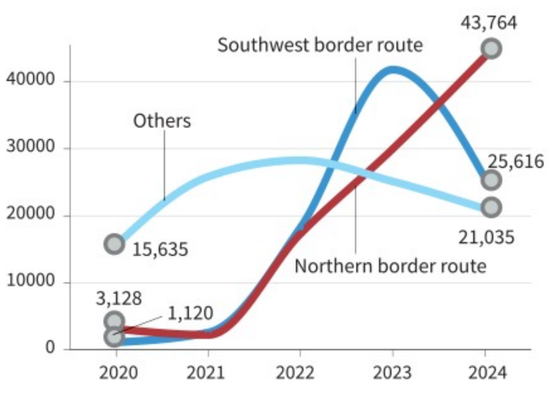
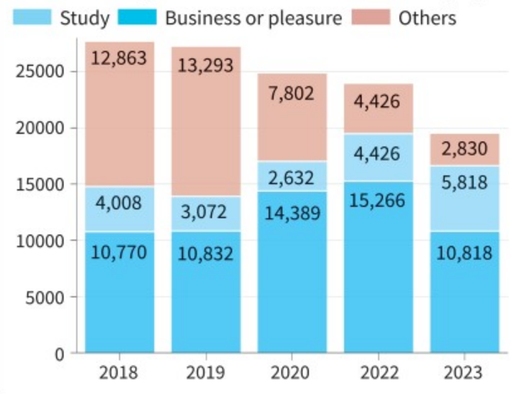


Chart 5: Number of Indians who have overstayed their visas after being admitted into the U.S. for various purposes



Source: The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha replies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1975

Palar groundwater for Madras

New Delhi, Feb. 17: The Tamil Nadu Government is likely to seek a loan of Rs. 2 crores from the Life Insurance Corporation for tapping the groundwater resources of the Palar river for relieving the acute water scarcity Madras is now suffering from.

It is understood that the State Government wanted to seek Central assistance for this purpose, but the Union Finance Ministry seems to have pointed out that the project was in the nature of a capital-intensive scheme and could not be accommodated within the scope of any drought relief assistance. A suggestion was, therefore, made that the State Government should seek funds from the LIC. The State Government is trying to speed up the scheme for the tapping of Palar groundwater resources by April this year by which time the water scarcity in Madras is bound to worsen.

The Palar groundwater project was to have been executed along with the Veeranam water supply scheme involving the laying of prestressed concrete pipes which are being manufactured by two factories at Panruti and Tirukalikundram, over a distance of about 135 miles. This scheme is already under execution but in view of the emergency arising out of the grave water shortage in Madras, the Tamil Nadu Government wants to complete first the tapping of groundwater from the Palar river and pump the water to the city over a distance of about 50 miles.

The Centre and the Planning Commission are as much concerned over the acute drought conditions and water scarcity in Tamil Nadu as the State Government. In fact it is for this reason that the Planning Commission has eventually agreed to fix Tamil Nadu's 1975-76 Annual Plan outlay at Rs. 142 crores.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1925

Empire wireless

Montreal, Feb. 16: Within a few months, Montreal will be directly connected with Australasia by Marconi's new system of radio transmission. Marconi's at present erecting three additional towers at Drummondvile for Canada-Australia service. The Drummondvile station will be operated in conjunction with the British Post Office, receiving messages from Great Britain and relaying them direct to Australia.

From Page One

Gyanesh Kumar named CEC after panel meeting

"At the outset, we cannot ignore that this committee is in clear and direct violation of the Supreme Court's judgment of March 2, 2023 where a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India* declared that the CEC and the ECs should be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, the LoP [Leader of the Opposition] and the CJI [Chief Justice of India]," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said.

While maintaining that the Leader of the Opposition participated in the meeting, Mr. Singhvi said: "What he said, what happened, what he discussed, etc., is not for me or you to speculate upon. We can't say anything. What happened you will come to know in the next 24-48 hours."

Congress treasurer Ajay Maken, who was present at the press conference, said, "We cannot say more. We have put our stand forward. What happened and all in a secret meeting, we cannot say we respect secrecy."

'First time'

This is the first time that a CEC is selected under provisions of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. Before this, Mr. Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu had been selected as Election Commissioners under the new law.

Earlier, the CEC and Election Commissioners were appointed by the President after recommendations of the government. The new law came into effect after the Supreme Court, in its ruling in March 2023, mandated that a selection panel be formed with the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India.

The court had said the order would hold good until a law was made by Parliament. The Centre though replaced the Chief Justice of India with a Union Minister on the panel when the law was passed, giving a dominant role to it in the appointment process.

'Consensus needed'

Mr. Kumar was the senior-most Election Commissioner after CEC Rajiv Kumar. In a farewell address, Mr. Rajiv Kumar said it was high time that NRIs were empowered to vote from their locations and a consensus was needed for remote voting mechanisms to facilitate crores of migrant voters.

He batted for biometric authentication at polling booths to tackle impersonation.

Places of Worship case: govt. yet to file response

The court gave petitioners liberty to file applications. The Chief Justice said the court would entertain applications which raised new legal grounds.

A galaxy of lawyers such as senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi, Dushyant Dave, P. Wilson, Raju Ramachandran, and Vikas Singh, advocates Kaleeswaram Raj, Ejaz Maqbool, and Nizam Pasha appeared for the various parties and interveners, which include minority organisations, political parties and eminent individuals. The Centre is represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta and advocate Kanu Agrawal.

Mr. Raj said interventions were bound to happen in a case involving a seminal constitutional question. Mr. Singh, appearing for petitioner-advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, said the court had issued notice in the initial petitions as way back as in 2021.

"Please direct the Centre to file its counter-affidavit at least in these petitions," he submitted.

Earlier in the day, senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for one of the petitioners, orally mentioned the case before the two-judge Bench combination of Chief Justice Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar.

However, the third judge on the Bench, Justice K.V. Viswanathan, was unavailable as he was heading another Bench.

"It may not be taken up today," Chief Justice Khanna had indicated to Ms. Jaising in the morning. She had reminded the court that legal issues to be addressed in the case were yet to be framed.

'Bastion against mushrooming suits'

Parties in support of the 1991 law described it as a bastion against the mushrooming suits which ultimately intended to pave the way towards retrogression and communal tensions. They highlighted that various local courts, by ordering surveys of mosque premises in civil suits, were in direct violation of Section 3 of the Act prohibiting the conversion of any place of worship and Section 4, which imposed a positive obligation to maintain the religious character of every place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

On the other hand, those who have challenged the legality of the 1991 Act blame it for barring Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs from approaching courts to "reclaim" their places of worship which were "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders".

On December 12, the top court barred civil courts from registering fresh suits or passing orders in pending ones seeking to "reclaim" temples destroyed by Mughal "invaders" in the 16th century. Justice Viswanathan, in that hearing, had indicated that Section 3 was an "effective manifestation or a reiteration of Constitutional principles" and the suits could be objected to on the ground of violation of these basic Constitutional principles even in the absence of the 1991 Act.

Cannot justify 'excessive power tariff', Sri Lankan President tells Parliament

Dissanayake welcomes energy investments based on a competitive tariff, says Colombo will not provide preferential treatment to any company or country; Adani Green recently said it will quit from a controversial renewable energy project; Sri Lankan courts to hear five pleas against project

Meera Srinivasan
Suhasini Haidar
COLOMBO/MUSCAT

Days after Adani Green announced quitting from a controversial renewable energy project in Sri Lanka, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said awarding energy projects at an "excessive tariff" of 8.26 cents "cannot be justified". While welcoming energy investments based on a competitive tariff, Sri Lanka will not privilege a specific company or country, he said on Monday, without naming Adani or India.

Mr. Dissanayake's statement, made during his maiden Budget speech in Parliament, is Sri Lanka's first official reaction to the company's decision, conveyed to Sri Lanka's Board of Investment in a letter dated February 12. Citing another project signed recently with a local company, Mr. Dissanayake said: "We awarded a tender to a 50MW wind power project at 4.65 cents for a unit of electricity. In that context, awarding projects at an excessive tariff of around $8.26 cents cannot be justified."

He further added: "To provide energy at a competitive cost to industries, exporters, and consumers, we will welcome energy investments based on the lowest tariff, and we will not provide preferential treatment [based] purely on the company or the country of origin."

'No discussion yet'

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath also told *The Hindu* on Monday that the withdrawal of Adani Green from the power project did not arise due to a change in government, but because of the "very high tariff" negotiated with the previous Ranil Wickremesinghe government. He emphasised, however, that the Adani group's decision had come as a surprise to the Sri Lankan government, as it was still in the process of review at the time.

"We have not taken any decision so far. This [withdrawal] was the decision of the [Adani] group company. I don't know what is the reason behind their decision... they just sent an email to our Board of Investment. As a government, we have not discussed it yet," said Mr. Herath, who was in Muscat for the eighth Indian Ocean Conference.

Global challenges: In the past few months, the Adani Group has faced setbacks in other countries. REUTERS

Sri Lanka's leading business newspaper, the *Daily Financial Times*, said in its editorial on Monday: "Adani exit from renewable energy projects a victory for transparency".

According to sources familiar with the project, "another big concern" for the Adani wind power project in Mannar and Pooneryn in northern Sri Lanka, is that at least five petitions on human rights, land rights, and environmental concerns are set to be heard by Sri Lankan courts this year.

In the past few months, the Adani group has faced similar setbacks in other countries, particularly after changes in their government – in Dhaka, the Yunus government is reviewing tariffs on the Adani Jharkhand power project, indictments were filed against the group by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2024 over a bond issue, and the Kenyan government scrapped contracts for Nairobi airport and power infrastructure in the country.

'Matter of principle'

Speaking at the same conference in Muscat, Adani Ports and SEZ CEO Ashwani Gupta defended the company's practices. When asked if the company was considering revising its contract negotiation process to factor in the political changes, Mr. Gupta said that they consult "all stakeholders" in their international projects. "Wherever we go, we go with a very important objective, which is top-line growth and bottom-line growth. We have to collectively work with all the stakeholders, and we do that as a matter of principle," he said, responding to a question from *The Hindu*.

From the time of its conception and approval in Sri Lanka – without a competitive bid – Adani Green's 484 MW wind power project has been mired in controversy, as locals, environmentalists, and transparency watchdogs mounted fierce resistance, including at Sri Lanka's top court.

The legal challenges to it were on grounds of transparency and environmental impact.

The company's call to withdraw the project came amid Sri Lanka's emphasis on the need to renegotiate the "very high" tariff. In January this year, the Dissanayake administration revoked the 2024 power purchasing agreement inked with the company by the predecessor Wickremesinghe government. Sri Lanka had then agreed to purchase power at $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh from Adani Green.

In an ongoing Supreme Court case, the Dissanayake government has said it will review the project, although Mr. Dissanayake during his election campaign vowed to cancel the "corrupt project".

Army giving 'befitting response' to enemy forces, says J&K L-G

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Manoj Sinha

Growing incidents of skirmishes on the Line of Control (LoC), including sniper attacks and infiltration bids this year, are posing a fresh challenge to security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir. J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said "the Indian Army is giving a befitting response" to enemy forces.

"The Indian Army is fully capable and responding appropriately on the border," Mr. Sinha said.

At least six skirmishes were reported on the LoC in Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch districts in the past two months. It remains "inconclusive if the Pakistani Army or the militants" were involved in this.

According to the Pakistani newspaper *Dawn*, two Pakistani soldiers were injured in "an unprovoked ceasefire violation by Indian troops in the Deva and Bagsar sectors" on February 12.

The Indian Army on February 13 dismissed such skirmishes as "some stray incidents of cross-LoC firing". The Army maintained that the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan was "intact as per the understanding". The Army, however, on Sunday accused the Pakistani Army of resorting to "small arms firing" on an Indian post. The sudden uptick in such cross-LoC incidents has raised an alarm among the security establishment in J&K, especially the Army.

Finance Ministry likely to raise deposit insurance limit from ₹5 lakh, says Nagaraju

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

M. Nagaraju

The Finance Ministry is considering raising the current limit of ₹5 lakh for deposit insurance, M. Nagaraju, Secretary to the Department of Financial Services, said at a post-Budget press briefing here on Monday.

"That [increasing deposit insurance] is under active consideration. As and when the government approves, we will notify it," he said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, along with Secretaries of various departments, was present at the briefing.

The official's statement comes days after the Reserve Bank of India placed curbs on the Mumbai-based New India Cooperative Bank for lack of liquidity. The bank's General Manager and Head of Accounts, Hitesh Mehta, was later found to have embezzled ₹122 crore over a year and was remanded in police custody for five days on February 16.

Money deposited by bank customers is insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation under the Finance Ministry.

When a bank fails and the RBI steps in to stop withdrawals, the corporation acts as a guard to secure the money of depositors. The corporation has been in existence since January 1968. The deposit insurance limit was increased to ₹5 lakh in 2020 from ₹1 lakh fixed in 1993, following the failure of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

Asked about the safety of deposits in cooperative banks, Ajay Seth, Secretary to the Department of Economic Affairs, maintained that it was the job of the regulator, and cooperative banks were working well. "The cooperative banks in the country today are under investigation. If there is any weakness, then it is the work of the regulator. If there is any weakness in this, then regulatory action should be taken on it. But it is not right to take a decision on the whole sector with the action of one bank. Cooperative banks are working very well in various States. There should not be any confusion about them. It is a well-regulated sector now," he said.

Former CEC slams report of funding by U.S. agency

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi on Sunday rejected a report that U.S. agency funding was used for raising voter turnout in India when he headed the poll body. His reaction came after the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency announced a series of expenditure cuts, including $21 million allocated for "voter turnout in India."

"The report about an MoU by the Election Commission in 2012, when I was CEC, for funding of certain million dollars by a U.S. agency for raising voter turnout in India does not have an iota of fact," he said. He said there was an MoU with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems in 2012.

"There was no financing or even promise of finance involved in MoU, forget X or Y amount," he said.

Manipur MLAs get calls in Jay Shah's name; State police begin investigation

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Jay Shah

After President's Rule was imposed in Manipur, several legislators from the State received calls from a person who allegedly identified himself as Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and offered them ministerial positions for a sum of ₹4 crore, police officials said on Monday.

Late on February 15, the Manipur Police posted on X that they had received complaints about fraudulent calls from unknown individuals attempting to influence and mislead MLAs by exploiting the ongoing political situation in the State. "With regard to this, an FIR has been registered in Imphal PS [police station] and necessary legal action is under way. It is hereby warned that those involved in such fraudulent activities will face strict and strong legal consequences. Investigation is in full swing," the police said.

₹4 crore bribe

A police officer said on Monday that Manipur Assembly Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh was among those who received the call.

Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that he received a call from an unknown number on WhatsApp.

"For the past three or four days (before February 15), I was getting repeated calls on WhatsApp from an unidentified number. There was no display picture. When I called back on the number, the person said he was Jay Shah and demanded ₹4 crore for government formation. I have reported the matter to police," he said.

The police have registered a case under Sections 318 (4) and 319 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The Sections pertain to cheating and cheating by impersonation.

"We are investigating the call and someone impersonating Jay Shah has been making these calls to MLAs. It appears to be a fraud," said a police official. A political crisis had emerged in the northeastern State after BJP leader N. Biren Singh stepped down as Chief Minister on February 9 following a meeting with Mr. Amit Shah. The State BJP leadership failed to reach a consensus on who should replace Mr. Singh.

President's Rule was imposed in the State on February 13 and the Legislative Assembly has been placed under suspended animation, keeping the doors open for the possibility of government formation in future.

Getting death threat, says ex-chief of BJP's Manipur youth wing

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

No police protection despite having sought it several times, says Barish Sharma

Within hours of a video going viral on Monday, M. Barish Sharma, former State president of the BJP's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), said he had been receiving death threats from certain sections of the Meitei community.

In the video, Mr. Sharma can be heard saying that he was among "the first Meitei village volunteers to be arrested by him [N. Biren Singh]". "Wherever he told us to go, we went and made war. Let me say, Biren is the one who tried to break up Manipur," Mr. Sharma said, according to a translation of his remarks, which were made in the Meitei language.

Mr. Sharma said that he had been planning to approach the police for an FIR on the issue, and that he had no police protection despite having sought it several times.

"I have received death threats about what they will do to me, and where they will throw my body, from at least five people, after the video [went viral]. These are not Kuki people; they are Meitei," he told *The Hindu*.

‘India-Bangladesh ties should not be regime-specific’

Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser says India should place restrictions on former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stop her from making public statements that may destabilise situation in his country; Hindus and other minorities are equal citizens and the government is doing its job of protecting them, he adds; interim government may hold talks with Adani group on power projects, he says

INTERVIEW

Touhid Hossain

Suhasini Haidar
MUSCAT

India-Bangladesh ties should not be “regime-specific”, Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain said on Monday. After holding talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the eighth Indian Ocean Conference here, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus might finally meet on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Business Summit in April in Thailand. Excerpts:

Tell us about your meeting with Mr. Jaishankar amid tensions in India-Bangladesh ties.

To be frank, ties were very tense [when the interim government took over]. Compared to six months ago, definitely, we can interact with each other much better now.

One of the concerns India has repeatedly made public is over the violence against minorities, particularly the Hindu community in Bangladesh. Do you think that your government has been able to control this? And does India agree?

The Hindus or other minority communities that live in Bangladesh are exactly equal citizens with the Muslim or the majority community. They are equal citizens with equal rights and equal rights to protection. And it is the Bangladesh government’s job, which it is doing, to protect them, like protecting any other citizen of the country. Unfortunately, just after 5th of August [in 2024, when Sheikh Hasina resigned], there has been an almost unexplainable frenzy in the Indian media about this issue, mostly based on falsehood. I would invite you to go through the findings in the UN report, which has been published two days ago and says that [the interim government was not involved in the violence].

On the subject of former PM Sheikh Hasina, what exactly are you hoping India will do?

There are cases against [Ms. Hasina], and we have asked for India to send [Ms. Hasina] back to us to face trial. As long as the Indian government doesn’t do that, we would expect they can at least put some restrictions on her so that she does not make incendiary and false statements which instigate reactions among the people because the issues are still very, very raw.

For 15 years, she was in power, and people feel very, very strongly angry about her actions.

So they would like to see that she does not try to

REUTERS

destabilise the situation inside Bangladesh.

Even so, how do you justify that a mob was allowed to ransack Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s house, allegedly over Ms. Hasina’s speech?

A mob may do something but that does not have government support.

Your government has thus far sent only a *note verbale*, a diplomatic note asking for Ms. Hasina’s return. Will there be a formal extradition request?

We have an extradition treaty, and we have given back many of the accused to India to face trial, and I think India can give her back to face trial in Bangladesh.

But for that extradition treaty, you would have to go through the trial process. You would have to have sufficient warrants for the MLAT (mutual legal assistance). When does Bangladesh hope to begin that process?

Well, the process is already on because the cases are now in court. We cannot compel them to do it [in a hurry]. And we are also aware that she might also have recourse to the Indian judicial system. It might take time but what we want is that she does not make incendiary statements while she is in India.

On the Adani Power agreement, recent reports suggest the Bangladesh government is negotiating for a restoration of power supply from the group. Could you confirm that the Bangladesh government intends to continue with the agreement with the Adani Group for power supply?

We have to go by the agreement but if we feel that it has not been done properly, we can always mutually agree to look at it again. And in my opinion, we will look at it with the Adani Group and try to make it more rational. I am not a technician, technical person, so I cannot go into exact details but then there has been comparison with other deals, and it was seen that the power tariffs have been unusually high.

You have met our External Affairs Minister twice now but Prime Minister Modi and Chief Adviser Professor Yunus have not yet met. Do you expect a meet between them at the BIMSTEC Summit in April?

So far, the two leaders have not been at any venue on the same day, so there was no opportunity for them to meet. But I personally believe that there is willingness from both sides to meet and discuss things freely and frankly. That helps. In our culture in the region, when the ‘top bosses’ sit together, they can resolve an issue just in one word, rather than leaving it to people like us to negotiate for years. I think a meeting between the two would be a good thing to happen in that sense...and is likely if they both attend the BIMSTEC Summit.

As a veteran of foreign policy, and the India-Bangladesh relationship, particularly the good ties between them since 2009, do you think India and Bangladesh can return to that state in the relationship?

Well, why only look at the past 15 years? Even during the BNP’s time (1996-2001), the trade within the two countries increased exponentially. I don’t think the relationship has to be regime-specific. So I think whichever government, whichever party, is in power in our two capitals, that should not affect our relations, because elections are based on mutual interests and mutual respect. And I believe that both our sides realise what is in their interest, and we can have very good relations with India.

(For full interview, visit newsth.live/Touhidint)

Plea seeks expert panel to prevent stampedes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for the constitution of an expert committee to recommend measures to prevent tragedies such as the New Delhi Railway Station stampede.

The plea filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari said a swelling crowd waiting for trains to Prayagraj, where the Maha Kumbh is underway, preceded the stampede. “Today we have sufficient forces, volunteers and technology. Even then if such incidents take place, it is a sorry state of affairs,” the plea said.

It urged the court to direct the implementation of the National Disaster Management Authority’s 2014 report on managing crowds at mass gatherings.

Railways will build permanent holding areas in up to 60 heavy-rush stations, says Vaishnaw

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The Railways is mulling over the possibility of taking down publicity advertisements and promotional material at railway stations, especially at the New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS), that may attract passengers to travel to the Kumbh Mela.

Days after the stampede at the NDLS, sources in the Railways said the rush of Kumbh pilgrims was unprecedented and was not coming down as had been earlier expected. “Up to 2.9 crore passengers have been plied to Kumbh since the beginning of the Mela by trains. Even on February 16, a day after the stampede, 18.48 lakh passengers were ferried to Kumbh in 388 trains and till 6 p.m. on Monday another over 14 lakh passengers were transported in 266 trains. The Kumbh rush will continue to swell till February 26,” an official said.

No let-up: Passengers waiting in queues at the New Delhi Railway Station on Monday. ANI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told *The Hindu* that up to 60 railway stations, including the NDLS, across India which handle heavy crowds had been identified and permanent holding areas would be built to handle extra rush. “Most passengers travelling to the Kumbh Mela arrive from a radius of 300 km of Prayagraj. Stations where there is heavy accumulation of crowds such as New Delhi, Patna, Aara, Danapur and Buxar have been chosen,” he said. “Feedback will be taken from passengers, porters and vendors in a sustained campaign to implement decongestion measures,” he said.

Mr. Vaishnaw clarified that the timing of the stampede was 8.49 p.m., when 20 to 25 passengers, a few of them carrying heavy load on their heads, started walking from Platform 14 (where Prayagraj Express was expected to arrive) to Platform 12, to catch the recently announced Prayagraj Special train. Both trains were expected at almost the same time.

Carrying heavy load

“A few women and children were sitting on steps leading to Platform 12. There was a very constricted area for passengers to walk. A few passengers who were carrying heavy load tripped and fell toppling over the others sitting on steps, causing the unfortunate incident,” he added. After the stampede, counter sale of platform tickets has been stopped by the Railways till February 26, in a bid to prevent additional rush from descending on platforms.

To accommodate more and more passengers, Railways is running more special trains when ticket sales surge, and officials said they could not cap sale of unreserved tickets. On the day of the stampede, 2,600 additional tickets were sold over and above 5,000 in the evening rush hour and more trains were run to ferry crowds, they said.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the operating manuals of the Railways were in a need of a rehaul to prepare better crowd control protocols.

Suvendu among four BJP MLAs suspended from Bengal Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari and three other BJP legislators were on Monday suspended from the House for a period of 30 days.

Mr. Adhikari, Agnimitra Paul, Biswanath Karak, and Bankim Ghosh were suspended by Speaker Biman Banerjee for creating a ruckus in the House.

The Opposition members led by the Leader of the Opposition started protesting after the Speaker refused to hold a discussion on an adjournment motion tabled by Ms. Paul. The motion stated that Saraswati Puja celebrations were not allowed in certain parts of the State.

The Speaker said the behaviour of the BJP legislators was unacceptable.

Mr. Adhikari said this was the fourth time that he has been suspended since 2021. He said BJP MLAs would boycott Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the House as long as the suspension remains in effect.

Cong. distances itself from Sam Pitroda’s remarks on China

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday mounted an attack on the Congress over certain remarks by the Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda that China was not a threat to India, asserting that the statement was in line with the main Opposition party’s viewpoint.

Rejecting Mr. Pitroda’s comments, the Congress said that they did not reflect the party’s view.

Mr. Pitroda, in an interview to a news agency, had said that he “does not understand the threat India faces from China” and that the U.S. often “blows things out of proportion”.

At a press conference, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said that Mr. Pitroda’s remarks; the suspicion of funding by U.S.-based entities to influence the electoral process in India; and the charges involving the wife of Congress MP and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi – all indicated the Congress had links with anti-India foreign forces.

Mr. Trivedi said the Congress had “love” for outside powers, but in India it had been seeking to spread hatred on the grounds of language, region, caste, and States. He said the statement had exposed the Congress party’s “agreement with China”.

‘Not our view’

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, distanced the party from Mr. Pitroda’s comments.

“The views reportedly expressed by Mr. Pitroda on China are most definitely NOT the views of the Indian National Congress. China remains our foremost foreign policy, external security, as well as economic challenge. The INC has repeatedly raised questions on the Modi Govt’s approach to China, including the PM’s public clean chit to it on June 19, 2020,” Mr. Ramesh said.

‘BJP involved in New India Cooperative Bank scam’

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday accused BJP workers of being involved in the recent New India Cooperative Bank scam where funds worth ₹122 crore has been misappropriated from the bank.

Mr. Raut alleged that the BJP members had looted the bank in Mumbai. “Why is the BJP leader Kirit Somaiya not holding a press conference on this issue now? Why is the State government keeping mum on this issue? A major bank has been looted and Mr. Somaiya has kept quiet, is his silence because of his party’s members involvement who have looted the bank?” he said.

At a media briefing at Mumbai on Monday, M. Nagaraju, Secretary of Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance said that the RBI has taken necessary action and that the Finance Ministry is not going to comment on the subject.

उत्तर प्रदेश आयुर्विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय सैफई, इटावा
Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah-206 130 (U.P.)
Phone: (05688) 276591 Fax: (05688) 276509

L. No. 3859 /UPUMS/Recruitment Cell/ (55 P-III)/ 2024-25 Dated: 16/02/2025

सूचना

1. विश्वविद्यालय के विज्ञापन सं० UPUMS/ ACAD/42/ 2024-25 Dated 05-10-2024, Cycle-I के सापेक्ष चिकित्सा संकाय के चयनित अभ्यर्थियों का परिणाम दिनांक 27 जनवरी, 2025 को घोषित कर दिया गया है, जो कि विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।
2. विज्ञापन सं० UPUMS/ACAD/42/ 2024-25 Dated 05-10-2024 के Cycle-2 एवं Cycle-3 को Merge कर दिया गया है, जिसके सापेक्ष आवेदन की **अंतिम तिथि 31—03—2025** है।
3. रिक्त पदों की सूचना तथा विस्तृत विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट: **www.upums.ac.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
4. जिन अभ्यर्थियों ने प्रथम चक्र (Cycle-I) में प्लास्टिक सर्जरी, ऑन्कोसर्जरी और गैस्ट्रोसर्जरी विभाग के रिक्त पदो के सापेक्ष आवेदन किया है उनके आवेदन पत्रों को Merged cycle-2 & cycle-3 में सम्मिलित कर लिया जायेगा।

कुलसचिव

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
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UUSDA
उत्तराखण्ड सरकार

Adv. No: UUSDA/P-98/198 Date: 17.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of Uttarakhand (GoU) has received financing from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the **Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project (ULIP), in the State of Uttarakhand.** The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like Bus Terminus, Administration Building, Command and Control Center and Intelligent Traffic Management system in Haldwani and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan for the works as mentioned in the table below.

The **“Program Director”**, Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand” **(the Employer)** invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement portal **https://uktenders.gov.in**, from eligible Bidders for the execution of the work as detailed below:

Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
Development of Integrated Urban Facilities, including Bus Terminus, Administration Building, Command and Control Center and Intelligent Traffic Management system, with 5 years of O&M, at Haldwani, Uttarakhand	**IUF/HDW-01**	**ULIP/OCP-N/IUF/HDW-02**	**20th March 2025 till 12:00 PM, (12:00 Hrs.)**

Date of publication of bid document	**18.02.2025 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)**
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	**27.02.2025 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)**
Bid document may be uploaded from	**10.03.2025 at 11:00 AM, (11:00 Hrs.)**
Last Date/Time for downloading of the bid document	**20.03.2025 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)**
Last Date/Time for opening of the bid	**20.03.2025 at 12:30 PM, (12:30 Hrs.)**

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, **https://uktenders.gov.in.** Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in.**

Program Director
UUSDA

”हमारा संकल्प आपका सहयोग बेहतर कल”

DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW- 226 010 UP India
Phones: +91-522-6692190, 2192; Website: www.drrmlims.ac.in

Advertisement No.-DrRMLIMS/ER/Rect-F(R)/2025/267 Dated: 17.02.2025

Special Recruitment Advertisement for

Appointment of Medical Faculty on Regular Basis

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences, an Autonomous Tertiary Level Medical Teaching Institute under Govt of UP, invites **eligible candidates** from SC and OBC Categories for appointments on Regular basis to the faculty posts of Assistant and Associate Professors in various Broad Specialty Departments. For detailed advertisement/information, Terms & Conditions, link to online application forms, and subsequent updates, kindly visit the Institute website- **https://drrmlims.ac.in/recruitment** from **20 February 2025.**

Director

The Kerala State Women’s Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Kerala undertaking), 1st Floor, Transport Bhavan, KSRTC Building, Eastfort
Attakulangara P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023, Kerala. Ph : +91 471 2454585

KSWDC/P5/SHE PAD/General/24-25 **E-TENDER NOTICE** Date: 18/02/2025

The MD, KSWDC invites e-tenders from eligible firms for the following.
Nature of work : Supply of Sanitary Napkin, Supply and Installation of Napkin Destroyer and Napkin Vending Machine, **Tender No** : KSWDC/P5/SHE PAD/General/24-25, **Estimated amount**: Rs. 6.5 Crore/-, **Last Date of Submission of Bid Online**: 10.03.2025 5 p.m, **Tender ID**: 2025_KSWDC_738824_1, For more details, visit : **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.kswdc.org**

Sd/- Managing Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : **04/2024-25/SE/PPD/KCN**
REBUILD-RKI-Providing underground sewerage networks and allied works in Division 54 of Kochi Corporation for the newly proposed 5MLD STP at Elamkulam. **EMD** : Rs. 5,00,000/- **Tender fee** : Rs. 16,540/-
Last Date for submitting Tender : 23-03-2025 03:00:pm **Phone :** 8547638502
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

KWA-JB-GL-6-1150-2024-25 **PPD Regional Office KOCHI**

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corp.
Kaushal Bhawan, J-8-B, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur - 302004

Corrigendum - Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) invites proposal for selection of Project Management Consulting Agency (PMCA).

Project name	Project Management Consultancy Agency (PMCA) for RSLDC

Activity	Old Date & Time	New Date & Time
Last Date/Time for Submitting/ uploading of offer/Bid	20.02.2025 up to 6:00 PM	27.02.2025 up to 6:00 PM
Last Date/time for submitting original hard copy of Bid Security Demand Draft	21.02.2025 up to 12:30 PM	28.02.2025 up to 12:30 PM
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	21.02.2025 up to 03:00 PM	28.02.2025 up to 03:00 PM

For further details of RFP and process of online submission visit RSLDC website - **www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/11806 **Managing Director, RSLDC**

INBRIEF

Prime Minister receives Emir of Qatar at airport

Extending a rare gesture of hospitality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday went to the airport to receive the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, who arrived here on a two-day visit to India. The Emir is scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Mr. Modi on Tuesday. His visit comes at the invitation of the Prime Minister. This will be the second state visit of the Emir of Qatar to India. He last visited India in 2015, the Ministry of External Affairs had earlier said. The ties between the two countries, including in the areas of trade, investment, energy and culture have continued to strengthen in the recent years. PTI

SC to hear plea against Bhopal waste disposal in Pithampur

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine a plea challenging a Madhya Pradesh High Court decision to transport 337 metric tonnes of chemical waste from the Bhopal gas tragedy site for disposal in Pithampur. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih listed the case for next week. Senior advocate Devdatt Kamat, appearing for Chinmay Mishra, the petitioner, said the local population in Pithampur were "up in arms" against bringing the waste to their neighbourhood.

Border Guard Bangladesh delegation lands in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A high-level delegation of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) reached New Delhi on Monday for the bi-annual Director-General-level talks with the Border Security Force (BSF).

The talks will take place between Tuesday and Thursday. The BSF is likely to raise the attack on its personnel by armed miscreants.

The 55th Director-General-level Border Coordination Conference between the two forces will be held at the BSF headquarters. The Bangladeshi delegation may also call on some senior Union Home Ministry authorities, a BSF official said.

The Indian delegation is led by BSF Director-General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, while the visiting Bangladeshi team is headed by BGB D-G Major-General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui.

The BSF said in a statement last week that the conference is being organised to discuss border-related issues and improve coordination between the border guarding forces.

Odisha university evicts 500 Nepal students after protests on campus

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology forced students to vacate campus after they staged protests over death of a girl; they were later told to return as Nepal PM intervened; Oli says embassy has despatched two officers to assist the students

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

More than 500 students from Nepal were forced to leave the campus of a private university in Bhubaneswar on Monday as tensions mounted following the death of a girl student from the neighbouring country.

The Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), a deemed-to-be-university, closed for all students from Nepal. It left behind busloads of students at the Cuttack railway station, 30 km from the institute. Many students, including girls, were left stranded at the railway station, with several lacking train tickets to return home. A notice issued by the KIIT read, "The university is closed *sine die* for all the international students from Nepal. They are hereby directed to vacate the university campus immediately today on February 17, 2025."

The incident evoked sharp reactions from the Nepal government. "Our Embassy in New Delhi has dispatched two officers to counsel Nepali students affected in Odisha. Additionally, arrangements have been made to ensure they have the option to either remain in their hostel or return home, based on their preference," Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli said in a post on X.

Raising demands: A video grab of Nepal students protesting at the KIIT in Bhubaneswar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Students can return

The KIIT, which initially took a hard stance on the student issue, backed down following condemnation of its reported high-handedness. It issued a press statement stating, "To prevent any further untoward incidents and ensure a smooth and unbiased investigation, Nepali students have been advised to return to their respective places voluntarily with the help of local guardians until the local inquiry is completed."

"The students are encouraged to return to the campus and will participate in the normal academics which shall be restored very soon. Their academic aspects will not be disturbed during this period and will be taken care of by the university. Accordingly, the temporary suspension of the academic classes and hostels is immediately withdrawn," the institute said.

According to the police, Prakriti Lamsal, a third-year B.Tech. student, ended her life in her hostel room on Sunday afternoon following a suspected strained relationship with a male student. Following this, students, particularly those from Nepal, staged protests demanding the arrest of the boy.

"We had received a police complaint about the reported suicide of a Nepali girl student on February 16. We rushed to the hostel room and tried to pacify students who were agitated over the incident," Pinak Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar, said.

"Police seized the mobile phone and laptop of the girl. Evidence was collected by following procedures properly, which was one of the major demands of students. The girl's body was preserved in mortuary," he said.

Shradhanjali Nayak, Director, Public Relations, KIIT, in a statement, said, "Police had taken a male student – believed to have been in a relationship with the deceased – into custody for questioning."

Racist remarks

Students criticised the university for its alleged high-handedness. They were set to appear for examinations starting in the last week of February.

They alleged that the university authorities passed racist remarks during the student protest. "We cannot reveal her identity. But one of the authorities said the amount spent by the university on students' welfare was more than the national budget of Nepal. The statement has been captured in the video," said a student, who was dropped at the Cuttack station.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, telephone: 011-40769002, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Delhi rocked by second strongest earthquake in three decades

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The 4-magnitude earthquake that originated in Delhi early on Monday was the strongest since a 4.6-magnitude temblor in 2007.

While of a 'moderate' intensity, the latest earthquake, accompanied by a distinct rumble, served as a rude, early-morning awakening to denizens of the city at the broader National Capital Region in Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurugram because it was 'shallow,' or a mere five kilometres from the surface.

"The 4.6-magnitude quake in November 2007 barely registered with many because it was at a 10-km depth, meaning that most of the energy dissipated by the time that seismic waves reached the surface," O.P. Mishra, Director, National Centre for Seismology (NCS),ok told *The Hindu*.

Strong impact: A man stands near an uprooted tree at Dhaula Kuan's Jheel Park, the epicentre of the earthquake, on Monday. PTI

An analysis by the institution of seismic activity in a 50-km radius of Monday's earthquake says that from 1993 to 2025, 446 earthquakes ranging in magnitude from 1.1 to 4.6 have been reported. The highest magnitude (M 4.6) of an earthquake was reported on November 25, 2007, which is about six kilometres north-west of Monday's earthquake, which originated at Jheel Park, in Delhi, according to the agency.

"(The quake) occurred due to normal faulting that supported the concept of hydro fracturing as the principal cause of seismogenesis of varying strengths," an NCS report on the event noted. In other words, below Delhi's surface lie vast water channels of aquifers, ancient rivers and rivulets, and over aeons, they erode the underlying rocks causing various "fractures", triggering seismic waves in the process. Mr. Mishra noted that the earthquake conformed with patterns previously reported in Delhi and that it was "highly unlikely" the city, and its surrounding suburbs, would ever experience a quake bigger than a 6 magnitude. While there were 'faults' – fissures and rifts beneath the earth that release vast stores of energy in the Delhi region, the Mahendranagar fault, or the Sohana fault among them – they were not large enough to release energy beyond a 6 magnitude.

'Shallow quake'

"In fact, the latest quake has shown that a shallow quake of magnitude 4 has not caused any serious structural damage or casualty anywhere in Delhi. This underlines that ensuring new buildings conform to the latest building codes and old ones adequately retrofitted, can insure against even serious quakes," Mr. Mishra said.

High levels of microbes found in river water at Kumbh, says CPCB report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

High levels of faecal coliform (microbes from human and animal excreta) were found in river water in which people took holy dip during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, according to a report submitted to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"River water quality was not conforming with the primary water quality for bathing with reference to Faecal Coliform [FC] at all the monitored locations on various occasions. Huge number of people taking bath at Prayagraj during Maha Kumbh in river, including on auspicious bathing days, eventually led to increase in faecal concentration," an NGT order quoted the CPCB report. The CPCB report was submitted to the green court on February 3.

Big crowd: Devotees taking a dip at the Sangam during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj earlier this month. SANDEEP SAXENA

The Principal Bench of the NGT comprising Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A. Senthil Vel was hearing a plea about the quality of Ganga and Yamuna rivers in Prayagraj.

"So far as the UPPCB [Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board] is concerned no comprehensive action taken report as directed by the Tribunal in paragraph 19(viii) of the order dated December 23, 2024 has been filed. Along with the covering letter addressed to the Registrar General dated January 28, 2025 the In-charge, Central Laboratory, UPPCB has enclosed certain water test reports. Thus, we find that the order of the Tribunal to file comprehensive action taken report has not been complied with by the UPPCB," the order said.

CBSE warns against false exam paper leak claims

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Monday asked parents and students to remain vigilant against social media claims about Class 10 and 12 Board exam paper leaks.

Officials said the Board was actively monitoring and taking action against those guilty of spreading rumours.

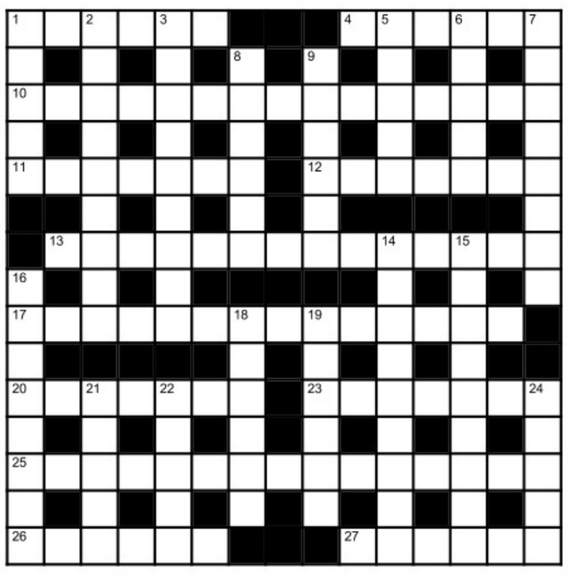
"It has come to the Board's attention that certain unscrupulous elements are spreading rumours on YouTube, Facebook, X, and other social media platforms regarding paper leaks or claiming access to the 2025 examination question papers," a senior official said. "The CBSE is actively monitoring and taking action against those responsible for spreading false information," the official added. Class 10 and 12 Board exams began on Saturday.

TH CROSSWORD + 14411

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Disconnect from most charming part of workplace (6)
4 Small, baby-like divers (6)
10 Mysterious figure from the Caribbean? (7,8)
11 Kind of coal that is having right energy count (7)
12 Women mostly are tired after killing a bird! (7)
13 One coming in for a test runs into division like 1/2 or 3/4 (6,8)
17 Metaphor is one form of address? (6,2,6)
20 Regularly turns to liquor to open up! (7)
23 With smile, Commie returned to mill! (7)
25 Part of a book - story about black hustler in much hollowed times (5,2,8)
26 Firm to redo works (6)
27 Work with nervy, wobbly dragon (6)

Down

1 Solidly built beginner starts to idolise coach (5)
2 Exciting short period of time invested in farming (9)
3 Female parlours, magical crystals (9)
5 Position of a professor, one involved with housemaid (5)
6 Bold generation! Learner's winning all games in the set! (5)
7 Controlling, exuding power from high ground (8)
8 English men in contest about floral arrangement (6)
9 One produces seed mostly without fuss (6)
14 Attraction of a counterculture icon, most want to taste (9)
15 Nice start to day! Nice start to occasion! (9)
16 Trembling, awful at times, say (8)
18 Neo is unique! (3-3)
19 Employ beats in song (4,2)
21 Unduly involved a British ban (5)
22 Girl kept hostage by their enemies (5)
24 Control over society? Japan is an example! (5)

SUDOKU

		6		3				
8							6	
9			6			5		
	4		3	2				8
	2		8		4		7	
5				6	7		4	
		5			9			7
	8							1
				4		6		

No.SS6434 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	O	F	D	S	F	C		
E	F	F	U	L	G	E	N	T
C		C	Y	T	O	N	P	
C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D
A	U	C	U	G	S	O	A	
D	A	R	K	H	O	R	S	E
I	S				R	R		S
L	E	E	R	I	N	G	S	T
L			C	R			N	T
O	L	I	V	E	O	U	T	O
E	D	S	W	I	I	F	E	
S	T	I	C	K	I	N	O	N
	O	A	U	K	C	A	I	
S	C	U	T	P	A	L	P	A
	Y	E	S	E	L	D	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	6	4	8	3	9	1	2
2	8	3	5	1	9	4	7	6
4	9	1	7	2	6	8	5	3
1	3	8	2	7	4	5	6	9
5	7	9	1	6	8	2	3	4
6	4	2	9	3	5	7	8	1
3	2	7	8	9	1	6	4	5
8	1	4	6	5	2	3	9	7
9	6	5	3	4	7	1	2	8

FAITH

Lessons from Ramayana

We learn dharma from Lord Rama, but we also get valuable lessons from other characters in the Ramayana, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. Even the negative characters such as Soorpanakha and Mareecha have something to offer by way of messages. Mantara is an example of what happens when a husband and wife allow a third person to dictate the equation between them. Who was Mantara to advise Kaikeyi, and turn her against Dasaratha and Rama? Had Kaikeyi not paid heed to her, then Dasaratha would not have died. Rama would not have gone to the forest. Bharata would not have spoken harsh words to her. The citizens of Ayodhya would not have lost their respect for her. But she took Mantara's advice, with the result that there was sorrow in the kingdom.

Kaikeyi is an example of what happens when we listen to wrong advice. It is an example of what happens when we are overambitious. So from Kaikeyi we learn what not to do, and how not to behave. Sumitra shows us that we must react calmly to disastrous situations. From Lakshmana and Bharata, we learn of how important it is to serve the Lord. Through Hanuman we learn of the power of Rama bhakti. From Vibhishana we learn that if people in our family do something wrong, we must ask them to mend their ways. And if they do not, we should turn away from them. From the end that Vali meets, we learn that those who break dharmic codes, will come to a sorry end. From Ravana we learn where pride and despicable desires will lead us. From Sugreeva's life, we learn that we must place our trust in Rama, and that if we do, He will never let us down.

INBRIEF

Audi unveils performance SUV RS Q8 at ₹2.49 crore

German luxury car manufacturer Audi has unveiled its high-performance luxury SUV, the Audi RS Q8 performance in India at a starting price of ₹2.49 crore, ex-showroom. The car comes with an ownership benefit of 10-year complementary roadside assistance and attractive comprehensive maintenance and service packages. The first lot of RS Q8 allotted to India has been sold out and deliveries will be in September for bookings made now.

SEBI mandates public consultation on rule tweaks

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated that all amendments to rules under its purview should undergo a process of public consultation. The proposal seeking comments should contain the suggested policy changes including the draft, and the regulations. The intent and the objectives of the changes should be mentioned in the proposal, the markets watchdog said in its latest Gazette notification on February 17.

IL&FS Group firms initiate interim payout of ₹5,000 cr.

The IL&FS Group said its companies had initiated an interim distribution of ₹5,000 crore, including ₹3,500 crore of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) units and ₹1,500 crore in cash, to eligible creditors as part of ongoing resolution efforts. The distribution is largely being initiated by Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), and IL&FS Transportation Networks (ITNL), which collectively hold a majority of the group's debt.

FM downplays FII outflows, says investors booking profits

Trends show how investments in India are yielding good returns, says Finance Minister, dismisses concerns that the Indian stock market had become less attractive for retail and foreign investors

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

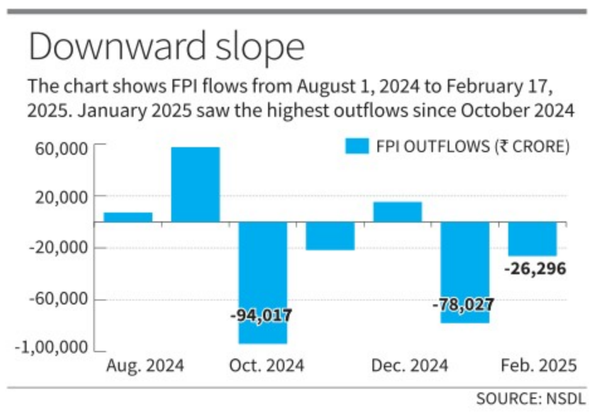
Steady foreign institutional investment (FII) outflows from India's equity markets show investors are booking profits, indicating investments in India are yielding good returns, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman said at a post-Budget media briefing here on Monday.

"FIIs also go out when they are able to, or in a position to book profits. Indian economy today has an environment in which investments are also leading good returns. That's also happening," Ms. Sitharaman said, dismissing concerns that the Indian stock market had become less attractive for retail and foreign investors alike.

Underlining the volatility of foreign investors, Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said, "As you know FIIs keep moving up and down depending upon where they want to really park themselves. And it is not true that FIIs are really moving from one emerging market to another."

Whenever there was global uncertainty, "they are ready to go back to the U.S., where they belong," Mr. Pandey added.

Acknowledging that there were demand-supply issues that needed to be addressed, he said that these were temporary and the Indian economy was resilient.



January trade deficit widens to $23 bn as exports dip by 2.38% on year

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit widened to $22.99 billion in January 2025, up from $16.56 billion in the corresponding month last year, as goods exports dipped 2.38% year on year to $36.43 billion, the third consecutive month of fall, as per government data. The decline in exports was largely owing to a fall in petroleum products exports.

Imports increased by 10.28% to $59.42 billion in January 2025 with a rise in inbound shipments of electronic goods, gold, non-ferrous metals, iron and steel and chemicals, among others, according to quick estimates of trade data for the month shared by the Commerce Ministry on Monday. Goods exports fell in January 2025 as petroleum products exports reduced by more than half during the month, but non-petroleum exports increased 14.15% to $ 32.86 billion demonstrating resilience of exporters, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said. Despite global conflicts and tariff wars, India has been able to do well in both goods and services exports, he said.

"Electronic goods are driving exports, followed by drugs, pharmaceuticals and rice," he said adding that gems and jewellery had picked up after a long time, which was a good sign for the future.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	75,997	0.07
US Dollar	86.88	-0.19
Gold	88,200	-1.34
Brent oil	75.09	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2223.70	71.05
Adani Ports	1082.90	20.20
Apollo Hosp	6300.20	29.70
Asian Paints	2250.85	19.55
Axis Bank	992.95	-4.55
Bajaj Auto	8537.15	30.65
Bajaj Finserv	1894.85	53.55
Bajaj Finance	8426.60	34.30
Bharat Elec	248.50	-1.85
Bharti Airtel	1675.55	-41.50
BPCL	252.30	1.30
Britannia Ind	4963.70	24.05
Cipla	1474.65	15.20
Coal India	360.10	5.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1198.95	1.90
Eicher Motors	4745.20	41.85
Grasim Ind	2463.85	32.55
HCL Tech	1709.90	-1.35
HDFC Bank	1717.35	22.50
HDFC Life	623.25	-2.95
Hero MotoCorp	3876.45	14.05
Hindalco	610.85	4.65
Hind Unilever	2329.40	11.05
ICICI Bank	1251.15	-8.95
IndusInd Bank	1048.25	23.85
Infosys	1842.30	-14.10
ITC	408.60	-1.65
JSW Steel	973.55	8.95
Kotak Bank	1945.30	-7.10
L&T	3221.85	-15.80
M&M	2831.95	-110.65
Maruti Suzuki	12762.90	82.65
NestleIndia	2216.50	20.65
NTPC	302.35	2.00
ONGC	233.65	3.15
PowerGrid Corp	263.20	5.85
Reliance Ind	1224.90	7.65
SBI Life	1476.20	10.75
State Bank	727.70	5.55
Shriram Finance Ltd.	550.35	11.20
Sun Pharma	1714.20	13.70
TataConsumerProduct	1023.25	0.70
Tata Motors	686.60	5.95
Tata Steel	134.29	-0.18
TCS	3904.50	-30.35
Tech Mahindra	1664.95	5.85
Titan	3233.20	19.95
Trent Ltd.	5096.45	-20.90
UltraTech Cement	11490.10	226.25
Wipro	305.35	-2.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.68	87.00
Euro	90.84	91.18
British Pound	109.17	109.57
Japanese Yen (100)	57.17	57.38
Chinese Yuan	11.94	11.98
Swiss Franc	96.22	96.58
Singapore Dollar	64.62	64.87
Canadian Dollar	61.08	61.31
Malaysian Ringitt	19.54	19.63
Australian Dollar	55.15	55.36

Source:Indian Bank

Experts intrigued by inclusion of electoral bonds in new I-T Bill

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Experts are intrigued by the new Income Tax (I-T) Bill, 2025 retaining provisions related to electoral bonds, struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional last year. They say it could be a legislative oversight or the government's intention to bring it back in another form.

Electoral bonds have been mentioned in the I-T Bill's Schedule VIII, which deals with 'income not to be included in the total income of political parties and electoral trusts'.

Under the I-T Act, 1961, anonymous donations received through electoral bonds by political parties from firms and individuals are exempt.

Strategic decision

Amrg & Associates senior partner Rajat Mohan said mentioning electoral bonds in the new Bill could be a strategic decision to leave room for future electoral financing reforms.

Cochin Shipyard and Maersk to explore shipbuilding in India

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

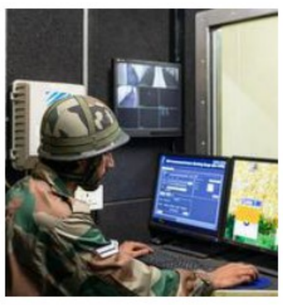
A.P. Moller-Maersk (Maersk) and Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore collaboration opportunities in ship repair, maintenance and building activities in India.

"As we witness unprecedented growth in global maritime trade, our collaboration with CSL represents our commitment to strengthening India's maritime infrastructure," said Leonardo Sonzio, head of Fleet Management & Technology, A.P. Moller-Maersk.

"The first Maersk vessel repair at CSL, planned already for 2025, will mark the beginning of what we envisage as a long-term collaborative relationship," he added. "This partnership marks a significant milestone in CSL's journey as the leading ship repairer in India," said Rajesh Gopalakrishnan, executive director, Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

Zen Tech to buy two firms for ₹130 crore

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD



Defence training and anti-drone solutions firm Zen Technologies will acquire two firms focused on simulation and related technologies for ₹130 crore.

The proposed acquisition of Applied Research International (ARIPL) for ₹127.50 crore and ARI Labs (ALPL) for ₹2.50 crore is expected to strengthen Zen's defence simulation capabilities, foray beyond land-based training and advance expertise in naval and maritime simulations to enhance combat preparedness, as per the firm.

ARIPL is into simulation and assessment tools for the marine, offshore, naval, ports and terminals, construction and mining industries; fleet view monitoring of ships and maintenance and module development for e-governance of DG Shipping of India. It reported an operational revenue of ₹92.18 crore for 2023-24.

ALPL, which is engaged in the business of providing simulation and assessment tools for the marine and naval industries, had reported ₹94 lakh revenue last fiscal.

SKEGEN to invest ₹360 crore in two defence start-ups

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

SKEGEN has committed to invest ₹360 crore in Sagar Defence Engineering and Zeus Numerix

SKEGEN Asset Management LLP, a PE fund manager, has earmarked ₹500 crore to back the defence sector in India.

The firm has signed an MoU with iDEX India (Innovation for Defence Excellence), a framework and initiative by the Ministry of Defence to support innovation and technology development in the defence and aerospace sectors.

As part of this commitment, it has invested/committed ₹360 crore in two iDEX winners, including Sagar Defence Engineering and Zeus Numerix.

Navin Roy Vallabhaneni, president, SKEGEN Asset Management LLP, said, "Going forward, on the completion of deployment of Fund I, the firm has plans to raise additional capital for the launch of Fund II later this year."

He said the firm aims at investing in a balanced mix of relatively stable growth opportunities and mid-stage/high growth investments. It manages about ₹4,000 crore across financial instruments.

U.S. firm Sonoco to invest $10 mn in new GCC

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

U.S. packaging solutions major Sonoco Products Company has opened a global capability centre (GCC) at Hyderabad that will harness data analytics, automation and emerging technologies to drive innovation in packaging design and manufacturing.

The NYSE listed firm, with 2023 net sales of about $6.8 billion, has lined up investment of up to $10 million in the first phase of the GCC.

The firm is likely to onboard about 300 technologists over 12-18 months.

'AI can impact critical thinking at work'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

High levels of confidence in generative AI applications such as ChatGPT, Gemini and CoPilot can be a drag on 'knowledge workers' exercising critical thinking, researchers from Carnegie Mellon University and Microsoft Research concluded in a paper.

Knowledge workers are typically white collar employees. The paper is due to be discussed at the Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in Japan this April.

"Quantitatively, considering both task and user-specific factors, a user's task-specific self-confidence and confidence in GenAI are predictive of whether critical thinking is enacted and the effort of doing so in GenAI-assisted tasks," researchers said.

"Specifically, higher confidence in GenAI is associated with less critical thinking, while higher self-confidence is associated with more critical thinking," they added.

Adani visits Tarapur for nuclear energy update

Press Trust of India
PALGHAR

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and senior officials visited the Tarapur Maharashtra Site (TMS) to gain insights into nuclear power technology and its operational aspects, as per a Tarapur Atomic Power Station release.

In the Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had proposed to open up the nuclear power sector and announced a ₹20,000-crore Nuclear Energy Mission for research in the field, to set up five small and modular reactors by 2033.

Nrupathunga University Bengaluru
Office of the Registrar, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore
E-mail : nrupathungauniversity@gmail.com PH : 080-22212924

No. NU/360/361/e-tender /2024-25 Date :17.02.2025

Tender for the supply of Chemicals, Glassware, Lab Equipments and Furniture for Nrupathunga University, Bangalore.
Tender Numbers: **1).** NU/360/DG/E-Tender/2024-25 **2).** NU/361/R/E-Tender/2024-25, Date of Floating Tender on e-Procurement Portal **: 17th February 2025,** Date and Time of pre-bid meeting: **1st March 2025**, Last date and Time for bidding through e- procurement portal **: 5th March 2025, 5.00 PM,** Date and time for opening of technical bids on e-Procurement Portal **: 7th March 2025 at 11.00 AM**, Date and time for opening of Commercial bids on e-Procurement Portal : Will be intimated to the shortlisted/technically qualified Bidders.

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/5104/Zen/2024-25

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT.No. TIDCO/Fintech City/MS Pipe/2024-25 Date: 18.02.2025

TIDCO invites bids from the eligible bidders through e-Tender for the work mentioned in the table below:

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Construction and Laying of MS Pipeline from Storm Water Pumping Station to Adyar River at Fintech City in Nandambakkam Village, Alandur Taluk, Chennai District.	Rs.2.56 Crores (Including 18% GST)	Rs. 1,38,115/-

Tenders shall be uploaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before **14.03.2025 at 3.00 PM** and the same will be opened on **14.03.2025 at 4.00 PM.**

For more details and participation in the e-Tender Please visit **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/617/TENDER/2025 Managing Director

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Yelahanka Zone, Bellary Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore 560092

No. EE/ELE/YZ/TN/GN/09/2024-25 Date: 17.02.2025

SHORT TIME TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover) (Through KPP Portal only)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Executive Engineer (Elect), Yelahanka Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike/KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations for Electrical work as detailed in the table. The bidders may submit their bids for works given in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Annual maintenance of electrical Equipments and maintenance of Crematorium at Kempapura, in Hebbala Kempapura Ward-No 09 (Call-III). Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 18.09 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.22,650/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** from **18.02.2025. (2)** Bids must be submitted online through the KPP Portal on or before **24.02.2025 by 11:00 AM. (3)** The bids will be opened on **25.02.2025 at 11:00 AM.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, Yelahanka Zone,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
ATALJI JANASNEHI DIRECTORATE
SSLR BUILDING, K.R.CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560001

No: RC-AJSK0ADMN(TEN)/1/2025/E-1676223 Date: 17.02.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for procurement of Skilled Manpower Resource to Atalji Janasnehi Directorate.

The Tender document and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **18.02.2025 to 06.03.2025.**

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
DIPR/CP/SPAN/5123/24-25 Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Bengaluru.

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-33/TS/2024-25 Date: 15.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 33/2024-25
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural under 2024-25 ZP Action Plan Work: 3054 Taskforce Head of accounts.

The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **24-02-2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
DIPR/CP/5125/SPAN/2024-25 Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE NO. KITS/IT/SUPR/5/2024-AA-KITS

KITS invites applications from eligible non-for-profit organizations (Society, Trust or Section 8 companies only) across Karnataka to conduct Incubation and Acceleration Programs (WEscalate) exclusively for Women-led startups for the FY 2025-26.

The interested Incubators/Accelerators are required to submit an application in the prescribed proforma along with the necessary enclosures in online form link: **https://forms.gle/ vf7v11gXHG9VhTHu9.**

The Call for Proposals document is also available in the department website : https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/en and all the Annexures (printed on letter head) should be emailed at Wescalate2024@gmail.com with subject line **"WEscalate- Elevate Women Entrepreneurship- 2025-26".**

The deadline for submission of application is **18/03/2025, 5:00 PM.** Refer Call for Proposals document for prequalification criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road,
Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram,Bengaluru – 560020
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/5116/AKAR/2024-25

JERUSALEM

Israel says its forces will remain in five strategic locations in Lebanon

AFP

Israel's military says its forces will remain in five strategic locations in southern Lebanon after Tuesday's deadline for their withdrawal under a ceasefire with the Hezbollah militant group, as Lebanon expressed frustration over another delay. Military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said the locations provide vantage points. AP

KABUL

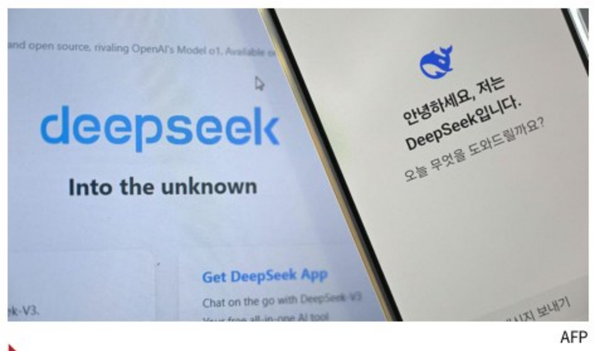
Taliban delegation visits Japan in a rare diplomatic trip outside region

REUTERS

A Taliban government delegation was visiting Japan for the first time on Monday, in a rare diplomatic visit outside the region. The Afghan delegation left Kabul on Saturday, in a visit that local media said would last one week and included officials from the higher education, foreign affairs, and economy Ministries. AFP

SEOUL

S. Korea halts DeepSeek AI apps download over privacy concerns



AFP

DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence start-up, has temporarily paused downloads of its chatbot apps in South Korea while it works with local authorities to address privacy concerns, South Korean officials said Monday. DeepSeek's apps were removed from the local versions of Apple's App Store and Google Play on Saturday. AP

BEIJING

U.S. has 'gravely backpedalled' on its position on Taiwan, says China

REUTERS

China's Foreign Ministry took issue on Monday with a revised U.S. government fact sheet that removed a line on American opposition to independence for Taiwan. The U.S. has "gravely backpedalled" on its position on Taiwan and sent wrong message to "separatist forces" on the island, Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. AP

Top Russian, U.S. officials set to begin Ukraine talks in Riyadh

The talks will primarily be focused on restoring the entire complex of U.S.-Russian relations, as well as preparing possible talks on the Ukrainian settlement and organising a meeting between Presidents Trump and Putin, says the Kremlin

Associated Press

Top Russian officials will hold talks with U.S. counterparts on restoring ties, negotiating a peaceful settlement to the war in Ukraine and preparing a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, the Kremlin said on Monday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Mr. Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov will fly to the Saudi capital later in the day to take part in the talks set for Tuesday.

Working closely: (from left) U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. AFP

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the U.S. delegation. Mr. Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff told Fox News on Sunday that he and National Security Adviser Mike Waltz also will take part in the talks.

Mr. Peskov said the talks will be primarily focused on "restoring the entire complex of U.S.-Russian relations, as well as preparing possible talks on the Ukrainian settlement and organising a meeting of the two presidents."

Speaking to pressperson from the UAE on Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country won't take part in the talks this week, adding that they would "yield no results". The talks follow last week's telephone call between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin.

'Hope for progress'

Speaking on Fox News Channel's *"Sunday Morning Futures"* programme, Mr. Witkoff said he and Mr. Waltz will be "having meetings at the direction of the President", and hope to make "some really good progress with regard to Russia-Ukraine".

In his TV interview, Mr. Witkoff did not directly respond to a question about whether Ukraine would have to give up a "significant portion" of its territory as part of any negotiated settlement.

"Those are details, and I'm not dismissive of the details, they're important. But I think the beginning here is trust-building. It's getting everybody to understand that this war does not belong continuing, that it should end. That's what the president has directed us to do," he said.

U.K. ready to send troops to Ukraine if needed: Starmer

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer has said he is willing to deploy British peacekeeping troops in Ukraine if needed. His remarks come shortly before Trump administration officials are expected to meet Russian officials in Riyadh on Tuesday to increase bilateral engagement and to discuss an end to the Russia-Ukraine war. The leaders of the EU and U.K. were not invited to the talks and would be meeting instead in Paris on Monday to discuss the war.

Writing in the *Telegraph* newspaper, Mr. Starmer said the U.K. was ready to play a leadership role in terms of security guarantees for Ukraine. This would not just mean continuing financial assistance to Kyiv, he said, but also "putting our own troops on the ground if necessary."

He also wrote Ukraine would have to have a place at the negotiation table. He also called for U.S. security guarantees for Ukraine and for European countries to do more for the security of the continent.

Mr. Starmer warned that Europe was facing a "once in a generation" moment in terms of its security and an "existential" question not just for Ukraine but also Europe.

He said that in Paris he would tell his counterparts that Europe had to do more for its own security. Mr. Trump has been pushing members of the NATO alliance to spend 5% annually of their GDP on defence, up from the guideline 2%. The U.K.'s figure is currently 2.3%, with plans to spend 2.5% of GDP, but without a set deadline reach that target.

"We have got to show we are truly serious about our own defence and bearing our own burden. We have talked about it for too long – and President Trump is right to demand that we get on with it," Mr. Starmer wrote.

"U.S. support will remain critical and a U.S. security guarantee is essential for a lasting peace, because only the U.S. can deter Putin from attacking," Mr. Starmer wrote, adding that he would press Mr. Trump for a "strong" deal for Ukraine.

"Ukraine must be at the table in these negotiations, because anything less would accept Putin's position that Ukraine is not a real nation."

Thrust on growth, FDIs in Dissanayake's first Budget

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka expects 5% growth in 2025 by improving productivity, boosting exports and attracting foreign investments, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said on Monday, presenting his maiden Budget that signalled his government's firm adherence to an ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

Growth will be facilitated by a strong export sector, said Mr. Dissanayake, who is also the Finance Minister. "We expect exports of goods and services to reach an all-time high of close to $19 billion in 2025."

Outlining key economic indicators reflecting relative fiscal stability over the last two years, after Sri Lanka's unprecedented default in 2022, Mr. Dissanayake said foreign currency reserves stood at $6.1 billion in December 2024, "surpassing predictions". Additionally, despite concerns over currency depreciation, the Sri Lankan Rupee has strengthened to nearly LKR 300 (₹88.17) per U.S. dollar, he pointed out.

However, for most Sri Lankans, the crisis is far from over. Families are struggling to cope, even as they squeeze their household budgets to meet the most essential expenses, including food, education, health, transport and utility bills.

Acknowledging the enduring impact of the financial meltdown, Mr. Dissanayake highlighted high cost of living and a fall in real wages, especially after inflation soared to 70% in 2022. "Although inflation has since declined, price

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

levels of many goods and services remain elevated, and income growth has not kept pace accordingly, thereby reducing living standards of the people," he said, unveiling the Budget that outlined increase in minimum wages in private sector and public sector salaries. Growth for the sake of growth has little value to society unless it is a means to uplifting the lives of all members of society, he said, citing income disparity and geographic disparity in incomes.

Terming the Budget "historic" for laying the foundation for "economic transformation", Mr. Dissanayake said: "One of the challenges we faced at the outset was dispelling the wrong picture of us created by the myths and malicious political propaganda against our economic policy and vision."

'Safe and sound'

Commenting on the Budget, noted economist and former Central Bank Governor Indrajit Coomaraswamy called it "safe and sound". The President "deserves a great deal of credit" for maintaining fiscal discipline despite the ideological orientation of his [leftist] party, he noted.

"The President has demonstrated that he is a safe pair of hands as far as the economy is concerned," he told *The Hindu*, adding that the 5% growth will be crucial for the reversal for sharp increase in poverty in the last few years. Sri Lanka's poverty rate rose to 25.9% in 2023, the World Bank estimated.

Observing that the Budget was "pragmatic and prudent", Mr. Coomaraswamy said Mr. Dissanayake had allocated a "fair amount" for social welfare, especially education, health, without undermining the IMF-prescribed macro-fiscal framework. "The welfare payments are well designed, well targeted."

While several economists hailed the "fiscal discipline" envisaged in the Budget, activists working with poor families said it failed to offer relief from the austerity measures that came with the IMF programme.

The Budget reflected the constraints placed by the IMF and did not deviate from previous austerity budgets seen since the economic crisis, the Feminist Collective for Economic Justice said.

"Half of the expenditure allocated is for debt servicing and the amount allocated for public investment is negligible," it noted, however welcoming the government's commitment to education and health.

"While the budget speech indicated an increase in *Aswesuma* [welfare benefit], it is still within the minimum 0.6 % of GDP parameter set by the IMF, which has been repeatedly highlighted as inadequate," the Collective said. "The Government should immediately take steps to renegotiate the IMF agreement if it is serious about bringing Sri Lankans out of the pain caused by the economic crisis," it said.

'Now or never' for pandemic accord, says WHO chief

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The head of the World Health Organization insisted on Monday it was "now or never" to strike a landmark global accord on tackling future pandemics, despite the United States withdrawing from negotiations.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said no country could protect itself from the next pandemic on its own – three days after U.S. President Donald Trump's administration formally told the United Nations health agency it would play no further part in the pandemic agreement talks.

'PKK's Ocalan working on Turkiye-Kurd peace plan'

Agence France-Presse
ERBIL

Jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is working on a "democratic" settlement to the four-decade conflict between Turkiye and Kurdish militants, a pro-Kurdish party delegation member said on Monday after wrapping up talks in Erbil.

A delegation from the main pro-Kurdish DEM party visited Mr. Ocalan twice and held talks with Turkiye's main parliamentary factions before travelling to Iraq.

The delegation met with Kurdistan's regional president Nechirvan Barzani.

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd.office: 6th Floor, AranyaBhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad-500004, HO: IIIrd Floor, PVSlandmark(IndustrialPark), AutoNagar,Mangalagiri,Guntur Dt., - 522503,AP., INDIA.
E-Mail : vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in,vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com

RED SANDERS WOOD SALE (PHASE XXI) 2025- NOTICE
Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited hereby notifies the sale of **905.671 Metric Tonnes** of **Red Sanders Wood** (RSW) through international competitive bidding by way of e-tender-cum-e-auction on **28th February 2025** in the First cycle. The unsold RSW lots in the first cycle, if any, would be put up for sale on **6th March 2025** and **13th March, 2025** in the Second cycle and third cycle respectively. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has all the necessary statutory approvals for the Sale and export of RSW. The details of the sale conditions and are available in following:**http://www.apfdcl.com, http://www.forests.ap.gov.in, http://www.mstcindia.co.in, http://www.mstcecommerce.com**

Sd/-
Dr. R.P.KHAJURIA, IFS.,
Date: 17.02.2025 PCCF / Vice Chairman and Managing Director

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001. **Tel :** 080-22215601.

No: DYES/ES/AP/177/2024-25 **Date: 15/02/2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Sub-The Deputy Director (Admn), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the Construction of Synthetic Basketball Court at District Stadium, Kolar.

Particulars : Construction of Synthetic Basketball Court at District Stadium, Kolar. Tender Amount: **Rs. 38.12 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs. 76,230.00/-.**

The Tender should be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. **(1)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal Dtd: **28.02.2025 time 16.30 hrs. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid: **01.03.2025 time 16.31 hrs (3)** Opening of Commercial Offers: **Will be intimated.** Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority,
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
DIPR/CP/5129/Zen/2024-25

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION

You **Sri. Manigandan S,** working as Junior Meter Reader in BESCOM, C-3 sub division, Jalahalli Division, Bengaluru. You are absent for duty from 08.02.2023 to till date without obtaining prior approval from competent authority. In this regard recall notice was issued by competent authority, causing which BESCOM works hampered, and you are breaking the KPTCL/BESCOM regulation. In spite of many reminders, notices, sent to your address as per Service Register, by Executive Engineer (EI), Jalahalli Division by Registered post but, the post office department has sent back by living a note as "Insufficient Address" and also your where abouts not known. Hence, you are hereby instructed to report in front of The Executive Engineer (Ele), C O & M, Jalahalli Division BESCOM, Jalahalli Bengaluru **within 15 days** from the date of this notification with genuine reason and relevant documents, for your unauthorized absence or otherwise the undersigned as well as disciplinary authority will take further disciplinary action against you, as per KPTCL/BESCOM norms, i.e. termination from the service without any further notices or intimation to you.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (El.)
Bengaluru North Circle,
BESCOM,.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) (Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-560002.
Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail:igotinstitute@gmail.com

No : IGOT/TND/17/2024-25 Date : 17.02.2025

ABSTRACT E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Tender Inviting Authority of Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, invites e-Tender **for the following Medical Equipments** from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal (Two cover system) of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description
1	IGOT/TND/USD/18/2024-25	Ultrasound Machine
2	IGOT/TND/ME/19/2024-25	Medical Equipments
3	IGOT/TND/VASC/17/2024-25	Vascular Instruments (Lumpsum)

Tender Period:**19.02.2025 to 06.03.2025.** Date of Pre-Bid: **25.02.2025.** Date for Opening of Technical Bid: **10.03.2025.** The tenderers should submit tenders through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any further amendments can be seen in the e-Portal only.
Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer, IGOT, Bengaluru-02

The Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regional office, Shed No. A-54(a), Peenya, 2nd Stage Peenya, 2nd Main, Bengaluru-560058. E-Mail: khdcvvs@gmail.com | Website: khdltd.com

No:KHDC/MD/CM(WhS)/2024-25/ **Date:17.02.2025**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Managing Director, Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Limited (KHDCL) invites e-tender as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-1999 & Rules 2000 from eligible reputed Transport agencies for transportation of uniform cloth, stitched uniform and other items in two cover system (Technical & Financial Bid). The documents may be downloaded through KPP portal of GOK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The last date for submission of tenders is **03.03.2025 up to 17.30 hrs** and the EMD amount is **Rs.1,66,000/-.** The KHDCL reserves the right to partially or totally accept/reject the tender without any notification.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/JA/5052/2024-25

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept.,
1st Floor, E-Block,KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan,
Bangalore-560009. Tel: 080-22533700 Email: cerws14@gmail.com

No. RWSSD/2024-25/PMC/Tender Date : 17-02-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites Short term tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **1) RWSSD/2024-25/SE0566 - Project Management Consultancy Services for Bagdal MVS in Bidar District.** EMD: **Rs. 3,10,000/-** & **2) RWSSD/2024-25/SE0676 - Project Management Consultancy Services for MVS in Chikkaballapura District.** EMD: **Rs. 1,20,000/-.** and **3) RWSSD/2024-25/SE0678 - Project Management Consultancy Services for Islampura MVS in Bagalkote District.** EMD: **Rs. 71,000/-.**

The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **24.02.2025**

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/5097/2024-25

PURPLE CAP

On-song Renuka soars to the top of the bowling chart

SPORTZPICS/WPL

Renuka Singh became the Purple Cap holder in the ongoing WPL after her spell (4-0-23-3) helped RCB restrict DC to 141. The seamer picked up the wickets of Shafali Verma (golden duck), Annabel Sutherland, and Shikha Pandey. In the season-opening win against Gujarat Giants, Renuka had taken two wickets.

HAND-IN-HAND

Smriti and Wyatt-Hodge notch up first century stand of the season

SPORTZPICS/WPL

Smriti Mandhana and Danni Wyatt-Hodge registered WPL 2025's first century partnership (107), and only the 10th in the history of the league, to help Royal Challengers Bengaluru down Delhi Capitals. It is also the second-best partnership for RCB, after Smriti and Sophie Devine's 125-run stand against Gujarat Giants in 2023.

LEADING THE WAY

BCCI has shown how women's game can be commercialised: Sthalekar

SPORTZPICS/WPL

UP Warriorz mentor Lisa Sthalekar feels the BCCI has shown the world how women's cricket can be commercialised. "They have shown how the game could be made popular and big stadiums be filled," said the India-born former Australian all-rounder. "It is wonderful to see that the WPL has started to capture the imagination of the Indian public."

ANOTHER ACCOLADE

Manu Bhaker wins BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Star Indian pistol shooter Manu Bhaker was named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year on Monday. **Other winners:** Sheetal Devi (Emerging Player of the Year), Mithali Raj (Lifetime Achievement Award), Avani Lekhara (Para Sportswoman of the Year) and Tania Sachdev (Changemaker Award).

Smriti's blistering knock makes it a cakewalk for Royal Challengers

The skipper adds 107 with Wyatt-Hodge for the opening wicket in a modest chase; Renuka and Wareham scalp three each for the Bengaluru outfit

Leading from the front: Smriti smashed 10 fours and three sixes in her 47-ball 81. SPORTZPICS/WPL

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VADODARA

Royal Challengers Bengaluru landed here without some of its key players. That isn't showing, though.

Smriti Mandhana's women came up with a near perfect performance on Monday night to post their second win in as many matches in the third edition of the WPL. After bowling out Delhi Capitals for 141, RCB romped home with eight wickets and 3.4 overs to spare.

Smriti was indeed leading from the front. After marshalling the troops well in the field, she came up with a scintillating knock (81, 47b, 10x4, 3x6) to entertain another excellent crowd at the BCA Stadium.

The stylish left-hander played some pleasing strokes, such as a lovely pull off Marizanne Kapp, as she built a 107-run partnership for the opening wicket with Danni Wyatt-Hodge (42, 33b, 7x4). The duo batted Capitals out of the match.

Earlier, it was yet again Renuka Singh that led the RCB attack on what is fast turning out to be one of her favourite hunting grounds. She removed the dangerous Shafali Verma for a first-ball duck. The opener was a bit too ambitious: she came down the track and gave a comfortable catch to mid-off, failing to middle what was only the second ball of the match.

But a second-wicket stand of 59 between skipper Meg Lanning (17) and Jemimah Rodrigues (34, 22b, 4x4, 2x6) raised hopes for the Capitals. And Jemimah was looking in good touch too, with her nimble footwork and sweet timing, as DC raced to 55 for one in the PowerPlay.

But in the very next over a sharp piece of work behind the wicket by Richa Ghosh had a reverse-sweeping Jemimah stumped off Georgia Wareham.

The following over saw Lanning falling to a tumbling Ellyse Perry near the rope at the square-leg boundary.

From 60 for one, DC slumped to 105 for six. There was no redemption for Lanning's women on this night.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Meg Lanning c Perry b Garth 17 *(19b, 3x4)*, Shafali Verma c Smriti b Renuka 0 *(1b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues st. Richa b Wareham 34 *(22b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Annabel Sutherland c Smriti b Renuka 19 *(13b, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp c Wyatt-Hodge b Ekta 12 *(13b)*, Jess Jonassen c Kanika b Ekta 1 *(4b)*, Sarah Bryce st. Richa b Wareham 23 *(19b, 2x4)*, Shikha Pandey c Ekta b Renuka 14 *(15b, 1x4)*, Radha Yadav c & b Wareham 0 *(2b)*, Arundhati Reddy c Perry b Garth 4 *(5b)*, Minnu Mani (not out) 5 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-7): 12; Total (in 19.3 overs): 141.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Shafali, 0.2 overs), 2-60 (Jemimah, 6.5), 3-62 (Lanning, 7.3), 4-84 (Sutherland, 10.2), 5-87 (Jonassen, 11.1), 6-105 (Kapp, 13.3), 7-130 (Bryce, 17.3), 8-130 (Radha, 17.5), 9-132 (Shikha, 18.3).

RCB BOWLING

Renuka 4-0-23-3, Garth 3.3-0-19-2, Ekta 4-0-35-2, Joshitha 2-0-21-0, Wareham 4-0-25-3, Kanika 2-0-13-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Smriti Mandhana c Arundhati b Shikha 81 *(47b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Danni Wyatt-Hodge c Jemimah b Arundhati 42 *(33b, 7x4)*, Ellyse Perry (not out) 7 *(13b)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 11 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 16.2 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-107 (Wyatt-Hodge, 10.5), 2-133 (Smriti, 15.1).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Kapp 2-0-27-0, Shikha 4-0-27-1, Minnu 1-0-10-0, Arundhati 3.2-0-25-1, Jonassen 4-0-37-0, Sutherland 2-0-18-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Smriti.
RCB won by eight wickets with 22 balls to spare.

Tuesday's match: Gujarat Giants vs Mumbai Indians, 7.30 p.m.

Priya impresses with her guile

Spinning a web: Priya claimed three for 25 against Warriorz. SPORTZPICS/WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
VADODARA

She has an excellent wrong 'un. And she can get it right quite often, as she showed on Sunday night in the Women's Premier League (WPL).

Priya Mishra used her googlies splendidly to set up a much-needed victory for Gujarat Giants, against UP Warriorz, at the BCA Stadium.

Priya didn't get a single game last year.

In Season 3 of the WPL, the 20-year-old from Delhi could well be one of the more regular numbers in the side. With more performances like this, after the disappointment on her debut against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, she could also be pushing for selection in the Indian team for T20 cricket before long.

Priya has already played for the Women in Blue in nine ODIs. Her best figures – three for 49 against the West Indies – came at the very venue where she bamboozled the UP batters. The experienced Tahalia McGrath, Grace Harris and Deepti Sharma were outfoxed by the young leg-spinner.

Not merely did she mix up her deliveries well, she bowled with accuracy, too. She has impressed many, including former India leg-spinner Shubhangi Kulkarni. "She bowls with confidence and flights the ball well," the former India captain told *The Hindu*. "It is good to see a young leg-spinner doing well."

Warriorz's mentor Lisa Sthalekar too thinks highly of Priya. "She attacked the stumps, and we know she bowls her googly well," said the ex-Australian all-rounder. "She did not take a backward step against some big tall Aussies."

Chance for Harshit to prove his worth at CT

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Variety is the spice: Pacer Harshit's armoury includes a deceptive slower delivery. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

In theory, Harshit Rana is Jasprit Bumrah's replacement in India's squad for the Champions Trophy. In reality, of course, there is nobody in India, or elsewhere, with the skill and control to fill in for Bumrah. From the uniqueness of his action and release point to the sheer mastery over his craft, the 31-year-old ace pacer is in a category of his own.

That said, Harshit did a decent job in the ODI series versus England by claiming six wickets in three matches. The economy rate was a tad high at 6.95 runs per over, but the 23-year-old from Delhi has been drafted into the set-up ahead of Mohammed Siraj for his ability to prise out wickets at different stages of a 50-over game.

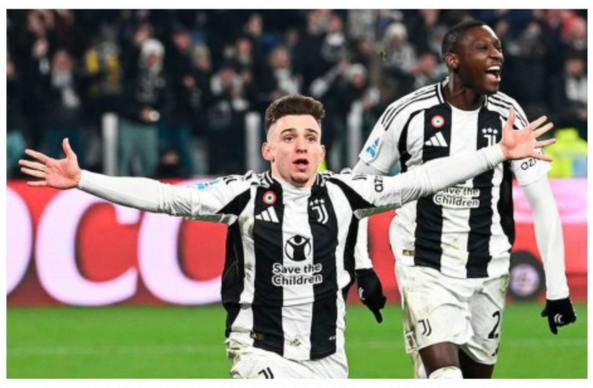
Given his exuberance and inexperience, the strapping fast bowler didn't always get it right with the new ball against the Englishmen. On his ODI debut in Nagpur, for example, he was taken for 37 runs in his first spell of three overs, with opener Phil Salt tonking 26 off just one over to lead the initial onslaught.

But it is a testament to Harshit's strength of character that he struck twice in an over when he was brought back into the attack a little later. His dismissals of Ben Duckett and Harry Brook came off back-of-a-length deliveries, using his brisk pace – he breaches the 140 km/h mark routinely – to coerce them into committing errors.

"With the new ball, he conceded runs but there was no help from the pitches. When the ball gets older, the back-of-length delivery is useful," former India and Delhi pacer Amit Bhandari, who has trained Harshit for the past two years, told *The Hindu*. "He has good pace and it is not very easy for a batter to hit shots off that length. When the ball is full or in the slot, the batter can hit it anywhere. But with the shorter ball, the scoring options are limited."

In Harshit's armoury, there is also a deceptive slower ball that he will hope to put to shrewd use during the Champions Trophy. It was on show during his breakthrough IPL campaign with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) last year.

"In limited-overs cricket, a bowler must have variations to succeed. You cannot be predictable. Harshit has the potential to be a match-winner," Bhandari said.



Vital strike: Conceicao's goal proved the difference. AFP

Conceicao wins it for Juventus against Inter

Associated Press
MILAN

Defending champion Inter Milan missed its chance to move top of Serie A on Sunday after losing 1-0 at Juventus, which boosted its hopes of a top-four finish.

Francisco Conceicao scored the only goal in the 74th minute of a high-tempo Derby d'Italia.

Inter wasted a number of chances and remained two points behind leader Napoli, which was held to a 2-2 draw at Lazio on Saturday. Juventus is fourth. Inter visits Napoli in a potential title-deciding match in two weeks.

Juventus broke the deadlock with a fantastic assist from Randal Kolo Muani who gathered the ball on the edge of the area and made his way through a crowd of players before tripping. The ball came to Conceicao, who drove it into the bottom left corner.

The results: Serie A: Fiorentina 0 lost to Como 2 (Diao 41, Paz 66); Juventus 1 (Conceicao 74) bt Inter Milan 0; Monza 0 drew with Lecce 0; Parma 0 lost to Roma 1 (Soule 33); Udinese 3 (Ekkelenkamp 19, 65, Thauvin 90) bt Empoli 0.

LaLiga: Espanyol 1 (Fernandez 62) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Sancet 77); Real Valladolid 0 lost to Sevilla 4 (Sanchez 5, 67, Romero 45+1, Lukebakio 84); Mallorca 3 (Muriqi 7, 28, Rodríguez 35) bt Las Palmas 1 (Bajcetic 62); Real Betis 3 (Antony 51, Roca 64, 69) bt Real Sociedad 0.

Bundesliga: Heidenheim 0 lost to Mainz 2 (Burkhardt 28, Weiper 49); Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Larsson 18, Tuta 37, Uzun 60) bt Holstein Kiel 1 (Porath 73); Werder Bremen 1 (Nsoki 7-og) lost to Hoffenheim 3 (Stach 28, Bischof 44, Orban 63).

India men and women hope to garner maximum points

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

With a win and a loss under their belt, the Indian men would be hoping for a better outing when they take on World Champion Germany in back-to-back games at the Kalinga Stadium here over the next two days.

The Indian women, meanwhile, would be keen on bouncing back from a disappointing loss to England when they take on Spain in their next two outings.

Starting with a loss to Spain before regrouping to win 2-0 on Sunday, the Indian men will be looking to earn maximum points in their remaining games.

Area of concern

The forwards were effective in India's victory but penalty corners continue to remain an area of concern.

India is yet to convert any of the PCs earned so far with both Harmanpreet Singh and Jugraj Singh unable to find a way past the Spanish defence as India hopes to go better than its disappointing seventh-place finish last season.

It won't be any easier against the Germans, who played a two-match series against India in New Delhi in October with the honours split even but have struggled in the Pro League with just one win in four games.

Redemption time: The Indian women will be eager to recover from the sudden-death loss against England. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Indian women, who barely managed to retain their spot in the Pro League last year, will also be eager to recover from the heartbreaking loss in sudden death.

Biggest takeaway

The team's big takeaway from the two matches so far has been its ability to switch gears when under pressure and not get defensive regardless of the situation of the match.

PCs have also been a positive sign with the team scoring both directly and indirectly during set-pieces. India beat Spain 3-0 when the teams last faced off in an invitational tournament in 2023 and had won 1-0 in the 2022 Nations Cup final to book its Pro League spot.

Spain, on the other hand, will be high on confidence after its first two wins against higher-ranked Germany. The team that earned its place in the Pro League by virtue of winning the Nations Cup last year to get promoted, has impressed with its ability to sneak through opposition defence and will be eager to continue the momentum.

Tuesday's matches:

Men: England vs Spain (3 p.m.), India vs Germany (7.30 p.m.).

Women: India vs Spain (5.15 p.m.).

INBRIEF

Vidhya, Kalpana emerge women's bridge champions

Vidhya Patel and Kalpana Gurjar emerged the women's champions of the Express Avenue (EA) National bridge championships in Chennai recently.

The winners: Women: Vidhya Patel and Kalpana Gurjar. **Mixed pairs:** Sandeep N. Karmakar and Marianne Karmakar. **Masters: Team:** Sarla Fibers; **Pairs:** Arvind Vaidya and Shubham Acharya.

Khelo Winter Games in Gulmarg postponed

The Khelo Winter Games to be held in Gulmarg from February 22-25, with competitions in Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, ski mountaineering and snowboarding, has been postponed due to a lack of snow.

Fonseca is the 10th youngest champ in ATP Tour history

Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca became the 10th youngest champion in ATP Tour history when he swept past home hope Francisco Cerundolo in the final of the Argentina Open in Buenos Aires on Sunday. The 18-year-old, playing in his first Tour-level final, came through 6-4, 7-6(1) against 28th-ranked opponent. He is also the youngest man from South America to win a Tour title.

Kecmanovic claims Delray Beach ATP title

Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic saved two match points on the way to a gritty 3-6, 6-1, 7-5 victory over Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina on Sunday to capture the ATP title at Delray Beach, Florida. Kecmanovic, 25, claimed a second title to go with the Kitzbuhel claycourt crown he won in 2020.

Galarneau ousts Karan; Ramkumar fails to qualify

Eighth seed Alexis Galarneau of Canada proved too strong for wild card Karan Singh as he cruised to a 6-4, 6-1 victory in the first round of the Pune Metropolitan $160,000 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament in Pune on Monday. There was no further good tiding for the host, as Ramkumar Ramanathan went down in three sets to Kimmer Coppejans in the second and final qualifying round.

The results: First round: Valentin Vacherot (Mon) bt Elmer Moller (Den) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; Alexis Galarneau (Can) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-1; Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt August Holmgren (Den) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jay Clarke (GBR) & Jurij Rodonov (Aut) bt Enzo Couacaud (Fra) & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 6-3, 5-7, [12-10].

Sandeep HC gets the better of Bengaluru Blues HC 'A'

Sandeep Hockey Club edged out Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' 3-2 in the KSHA-BHA 'A' division hockey league in Bengaluru.

The results: Sandeep HC 4 (Poovanna 6, 33, Sundhar Raj 40) bt Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' 2 (Bipul 43, 45).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Tuesday: AC Milan vs Feyenoord Rotterdam *(11.15 p.m.)*, Atalanta vs Club Brugge, Bayern Munich vs Celtic, Benfica vs AS Monaco *(all matches at 1.30 a.m. Wednesday)*.
Wednesday: Borussia Dortmund vs Sporting CP *(11.15 p.m.)*, PSG vs Brest, PSV Eindhoven vs Juventus, Real Madrid vs Manchester City *(all matches at 1.30 a.m. Thursday)*.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: semifinals, day 2, JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Zimbabwe vs Ireland: 3rd ODI, FanCode, 1 p.m.
I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 & 4 p.m.
Hockey: Pro League, Women, India vs Spain, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 5.15 p.m.; India vs Germany, 7.30 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (& LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Baby's unbeaten half-century boosts Kerala on an attritional opening day

Gujarat bowlers keep the opposition batters in check; Akshay, Kunnummal & Saxena fail to convert starts after the visitor opts to bat

RANJI TROPHY

Anish Pathiyil
AHMEDABAD

A conservative, unbeaten half-century from captain Sachin Baby helped Kerala post 206 for four against Gujarat on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Monday.

The day's play was a battle of patience as either side refused to give the opposition an inch. Despite picking only four wickets in the day, the Gujarat bowlers will be buoyant with the controlled run rate while Kerala will look to take positives from the stubborn batting it employed against the host.

Kerala got off to a solid start after opting to bat on the black soil surface as openers Akshay Chandran and Rohan Kunnummal safely waded through the initial hour of play with very little on offer for the pacers. Despite a few disjointed calls while running between the wickets, the dugout spurred the batters on with orchestrated claps as the pair brought up the fifty-run partnership in the 18th over. The coordination issues eventually proved fatal as Kunnummal sold Akshay down the river attempting a risky single to extra cover.

Trapped in front

Kunnummal perished a few overs later, unable to put the run-out episode behind him, trapped in front by a Ravi Bishnoi googly. Baby and debutant Varun Nayanar stitched a 93-ball stand, but with the scoreboard progressing very slowly, Gujarat managed to exert some pressure and prise out the young batter for 10.

The game of attrition continued after Jalaj Saxena walked to the crease, and despite the duo managing to find boundaries consistently, Kerala could not manage an uptick in its run rate.

Left-arm pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla accounted for Jalaj after the tea break, forcing him to play on after a 71-run association with Sachin off 168 balls.

The stonewalling continued after the fall of the wicket as Mohammed Azharuddeen and Sachin held fort till the end of day's play, forging a 49-run stand in 21 overs.

The scores: Kerala — 1st innings: Akshay Chandran run out 30, Rohan Kunnummal lbw b Bishnoi 30, Varun Nayanar c Urvil b Priyajitsinh 10, Sachin Baby (batting) 69, Jalaj Saxena b Nagwaswalla 30, Mohammed Azharuddeen (batting) 30; Extras (lb-4, w-1, nb-2): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 89 overs): 206.
Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-63, 3-86, 4-157.
Gujarat bowling: Gaja 18-5-36-0, Nagwaswalla 16-4-39-1, Priyajitsinh 12-0-33-1, Jaymeet 9-1-26-0, Bishnoi 15-2-33-1, Desai 16-8-22-0, Jayswal 3-1-13-0.
Toss: Kerala.

Standing tall: Skipper Baby came up with a dogged knock. R.V. MOORTHY

Shorey and Malewar star for Vidarbha on day one

Contrasting methods: Shorey scored an effortless 74 while Malewar was patient during his 157-ball 79. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Amol Karhadkar
NAGPUR

Dhruv Shorey gave a solid start. Danish Malewar played an innings with flair. Karun Nair appeared effortless at the crease. But neither of them could convert their knock into a real big one.

As a result, despite crossing the 300-run mark, Vidarbha would feel far from being comfortable at the end of the opening day's proceedings of its Ranji Trophy semifinal against powerhouse Mumbai.

With Shivam Dube using the heavy ball and Shams Mulani striking with his accuracy, Vidarbha ended day one at 308 for five on a batting-friendly strip at the Vidarbha Cricket Association stadium here on Monday.

With Vidarbha having employed lower-order bat Parth Rekhade at No. 3 to take the shine off the ball, Mumbai will know its pacers will have to strike early with the second new ball - five overs old - on the second morning.

Royston Dias, the left-arm pacer who bowled first change, extracted additional bounce and inward movement in his second over to surprise Atharva Taide who haplessly saw the ball kissing his glove en route to keeper Akash Anand.

Shorey, after being patient for the first 45 minutes, went after Mohit Avasthi in the 10th over. He struck a hat-trick of boundaries - a fierce cut, a top-edge over the cordon and an off-drive.

Left-hander Rekhade frustrated the Mumbai bowlers at the other end but was finally pouched in the slip cordon by a lunging Suryakumar Yadav off Dube.

Shorey, however, missed a cut off a short of a length ball by Mulani that turned and bounced slightly as the edge lobbed to Ajinkya Rahane at first slip off the 'keeper's gloves.

Proactive

Malewar and Karun were proactive at the crease and did not let Tanush Kotian settle into a rhythm.

But Karun was adjudged caught behind after tea. While the DRS referral showed a spike, the batter was convinced the ball had missed the bat.

Malewar then played across the line and gifted his wicket to Mulani before Rathod and Wadkar saw the day off.

The scores: Vidarbha – 1st innings: Atharva Taide c Anand b Dias 4, Dhruv Shorey c Rahane b Mulani 74, Parth Rekhade c Suryakumar b Dube 23, Danish Malewar c Anand b Mulani 79, Karun Nair c Anand b Dube 45, Yash Rathod (batting) 47, Akshay Wadkar (batting) 13; Extras (b-1, lb-6, nb-13, w-3): 23; Total (for 5 wkts. in 88 overs): 308.
Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-93, 3-144, 4-222, 5-261.
Mumbai bowling: Shardul 14-0-57-0, Avasthi 14-2-61-0, Dias 11-2-26-1, Kotian 22-0-78-0, Dube 9-1-35-2, Mulani 18-3-44-2.
Toss: Vidarbha.

One N Only wins feature event

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward, One N Only, ridden by jockey Kuldeep Singh Sr., showcased his class by securing his fourth consecutive victory of the season, in the T. Chandrasekhar Reddy Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Feb. 17) races.

The winner is owned by M/s. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Shankar Srinivas, Ashok Ranpise & Donald Anthony Netto.

1. ONNU ONNU ONNU PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): KNOTTY SENORITA (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Gloria (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Glimmer Of Hope (Shivansh) 3 and Total Control (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 1-1/4, Short Head and 3. 1m, 14.37s. ₹19 (w), 10, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 35, SHW: 14 and 10, FP: 64, Q: 33, Tanala: 183. Favourite: Knotty Senorita. Owners: M/s. Krishnan Kamesh, Srikanth Badruka, Balamukunda Das & K. Shashabindu Das. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

2. CHARON PLATE (1,600M): CORTE MADERA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Gold Giver (P. Ajeeth K) 2, N R I Blaze (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Beast Master (P. Sai K) 4. 3-1/2, Neck and 2. 1m, 41.47s. ₹19 (w), 11, 19 and 10 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 55, SHW: 11 and 26, FP: 94, Q: 79, Tanala: 137. Favourite: N R I Blaze. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Ms. Meka Ahalya. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

3. MALVADO PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): SADIYA (Deepak Singh) 1, Desert Sultan (B.R. Kumar) 2, Silver Arrow (P. Sai K) 3 and Master Touch (Mukesh) 4. Not run: Shubhrak. 3-1/4, 2-1/4 and Short Head. 1m, 29.95s. ₹48 (w), 10, 14 and 11 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 42, SHW: 26 and 15, FP: 204, Q: 166. Tanala: 736. Favourite: Silver Arrow. Owners: M/s. Soma Raju Adipudi, Sriram Uppaluri & Lakshmana Chowdary Yalamanchili. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

4. ONNU ONNU ONNU PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): SILVER LINING (Alex Rozario) 1, Vital Sign (Akshay K) 2, Elegant Lady (Rafique Sk.) 3 and Always Special (Ashad Asbar) 4. 1-1/4, 2-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 14.24s. ₹137 (w), 17, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 43, SHW: 40 and 16, FP: 371, Q: 99, Tanala: 2,305. Favourite: Vital Sign. Owner & Trainer: Mr. L. D' Silva.

5. MIR FAZILATH HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400M): LINDA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Emperors Charm (Akshay K) 2, Lifes Journey (Gaurav) 3 and Kings Best (P. Sai K) 4. 2, 2 and 2. 1m, 25.51s. ₹45 (w), 15, 10 and 24 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 73, SHW: 20 and 15, FP: 135, Q: 42, Tanala: 858. Favourite: Emperors Charm. Owners: Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. POCHARAM PLATE (1,800M): HURRICANE BAY (Akshay Kumar) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (Shivansh) 2, True Icon (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Fly Tothe Stars (Mukesh) 4. 3-1/2, 2-3/4 and Head. 1m, 53.14s. ₹15 (w), 13 and 21 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 44, SHW: 15 and 27, FP: 39, Q: 31, Tanala: 174. Favourite: Hurricane Bay. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

7. T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,200M): ONE N ONLY (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Black Onyx (Mukesh) 2, Encore (Md. Ekram) 3 and Last Wish (Ashad Asbar) 4. 4-1/4, Neck and 1. 1m, 11.07s. ₹26 (w), 11, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 36, SHW: 11 and 11, FP: 60, Q: 28, Tanala: 269. Favourite: Black Onyx. Owners: M/s. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Shankar Srinivas, Ashok Ranpise & Donald Anthony Netto. Trainer: D. Netto.

8. MALVADO PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400M): SECRET OPTION (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Politics (B. Nikhil) 2, Battle On (P. Sai K) 3 and Tupac (R.S. Bhati) 4. Not run: Zidane. 1, 2-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 28.90s. ₹34 (w), 16, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 39, SHW: 20 and 60, FP: 215, Q: 101, Tanala: 395. Favourite: Battle On. Owners: M/s. N.P. Sharma, Balam Mohla, M. Prashant Kumar & Ramachandra Raju Manthena. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹21,229 (33 tkts.) & 30%: 2,160 (139 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 36,256 (7 tkts.), (ii) 864 (183 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 472 (69 tkts.), (ii) 6,908 (3 tkts.), (iii) 102 (578 tkts.).

Indian Turf Invitation Cup Weekend races nominees

Vinayak M. Zodge

Following are the nominations for the Indian Turf Invitation Cup Weekend races to be held in Chennai on Saturday (March 1) and Sunday (March 2).

HPSL INDIAN TURF INVITATION CUP (Gr. 1): RCTC: Casteel, Trevalius and Dyf. *Reserve:* Rise And Reign.
RWITC: Zuccaro, Pyrite and Positano. *Reserve:* Touch Of Grey, Santissimo and Dash.
BTC: Ranquelino, Queen Of Kings and Redefined. *Reserve:* Dyf, Galahad, Touch Of Grey, Champions Way and Mandarino.
HRC: Arkadian, Duke Of Tuscany and Dapper Look. *Reserve:* Dyf, Psychic Star and Nyx.
My RC: Bourbanaire, Mandarino and Shubankar.
MRC: Rooney, Desert Hero and Touch Of Grey.

ZAVARAY POONAWALLA SPRINTERS CUP (Gr. 1): RCTC: Meropi, Black Eagle and Dubai Princess. *Reserve:* Global Influence.
RWITC: Time And Tide, Miss American Pie and Dream Seller. *Reserve*: Constable.
BTC: Masato, Berrettini and Shamrock. *Reserve*: Czar, Star Glory, Bourbanaire and Excellent Lass. **HRC:** Magileto, Berrettini and Ashoka.
My RC: O Hansini, Tom Cruiser and Czar. *Reserve:* Excellent Lass, Shamrock and Star Glory.
MRC: Ascoval and Aldgate. *Reserve*: Star Glory.

COROMANDEL GROMOR STAYERS CUP (Gr. 1): RCTC: Ramiel, Casteel and Amber Knight. *Reserve:* Dyf, Lady Sunshine, Mescalito, Rise And Reign, Nomitsi and Trevalius.
RWITC: Touch Of Grey, Evaldo and Golden Thunder. *Reserve:* Ruling Dynasty.
BTC: Queen Of Kings, Dyf and Galahad. *Reserve:* Champions Way, Tiepolo, Touch Of Grey and Evaldo. **HRC:** Dyf, Truth and Dapper Look. *Reserve:* Magnum, Champions Way and Psychic Star.
My RC: Champions Way and Galahad. **MRC:** Monteverdi, Trevalius and Tiepolo. *Reserve:* Queen Anula.

MAJ. P.K. MEHRA SUPER MILE (Gr.1): RCTC: Meropi, Casteel and Trakila. *Reserve:* A Star Is Born, Global Influence and Trevalius. **RWITC:** Once You Go Black, Santissimo and El Greco. *Reserve:* Dash. **BTC:** African Gold, Excellent Lass and Prana. *Reserve:* Shamrock, Bourbanaire, Tehani and De Villers. **HRC:** African Gold, Psychic Star and Truth. *Reserve:* Yukan and Champions Way. **My RC:** Iron Clad, Bourbanaire and Santorino. *Reserve:* Shamrock, Sea The Sun, Confident Game and A Star Is Born. **MRC:** Tehnai, Glorious King and Shamrock. *Reserve:* Champions Way and Touch Of Grey.

Note: RCTC: Royal Calcutta Turf Club. **RWITC:** Royal Western India Turf Club. **MRC:** Madras Race Club. **BTC:** Bangalore Turf Club. **HRC:** Hyderabad Race Club. **My RC:** Mysore Race Club.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Head Quarters CC posts win

Head Quarters CC defeated Sir MVIT CC in the KSCA Group I, Division V league here.

The scores: Head Quarters 260 in 47.5 overs (Siddhanth Smaran 35, H.C. Shashank 54, Aseef 60 n.o., Rakesh 3/41) bt Sir MVIT CC 96 in 20.3 overs (Rohan Gowda 37, H.C. Shashank 3/53, Aseef 4/13).

Bangalore Sports CC 241 in 49.3 overs (G. Kroshick 79, Pradeep 44, B.V. Hitesh 42) bt Vivekananda Union CC 151 in 30.1 overs (S. Raghu 49, Rajdeep Dey 25, Vishal Rao 3/28, Jeetender Singh 4/30).

Government Arts College 125 in 26.2 overs (R. Venkatachalapathi 3/34, V. Venugopal 5/24) lost to Young Boys CC 126/2 in 14.1 overs (Kiran Gajakosh 36, S. Yuvaraj 56 n.o.).

Central College CC 155 in 32.3 overs (S. Abhishek 30, Shahid Shakir 42, R. Rohit 3/24, K. Tejas 3/43, C. Srujan 3/36) lost to United CC 159/8 in 26.4 overs (J. Koushik 39, R. Rohit 40, Devesh Lilani 3/25, S.R. Manthesh 3/28).

SSK CC 230 in 49.4 overs (K.S. Ranganatha 55, G. Sagar 88, Parveez Ali 4/47) lost to YMCA (3) 232/9 in 34.1 overs (Shees Ali 58, Nauman 25, V. Rohit 47, Sridharms 4/41).

Diamond CC 412 in 39.1 overs (Vishal Balgopal 41, G. Monish 53, Chethan Reddy 121, Pranava Bharadwaj 37, Sharath Kumar 33, Yashovardhan Jain 4/78, Bekallale Girish 3/92) bt YMCA (1) 24 in 11.1 overs (Pranava Bharadwaj 4/14).

MES College 178 in 49.4 overs (Kunal Muruganati 66, Rahul Swamy 33, Mehta Jain 5/26) lost to Anekal Town CC 179/8 in 43.2 overs (Arsh 34, Arjun Mishra 27, Durga Prasad 35 n.o., Nagarjun Sharma 5/30).

Seshadripuram PUC 58 in 14.2 overs (Arvind 6/24, M.D. Ayush 3/15) lost to Friends CC (Kolar) 59/1 in 7.5 overs (Santhosh Rao 29 n.o.).

Friends Union Cricketers 217 in 41.3 overs (Nitish Dahiya 84, H.S. Shashidhar 30, Pavan Kumar 3/25) bt Young Cricketers Association 83 in 15.4 overs (H.C. Narayanaswamy 42, Nitish Dahiya 4/25, Yatish Kumar 4/31).

Anglo Youth CA 148 in 49.3 overs (Bhagesh Babar 25, Prathap Kamath 39, Charan Reddy 3/12) lost to ACE Cricketers 149/4 in 16.4 overs (Sagar Nayak 35, M. Ponnanna 59, Sunil Chinnaswamy 29).

Jaihind CC 213 in 44.5 overs (Siddarth Chhetri 31, S. Manjunath 39, J. Varun 40, Deepak Gowda 3/39, H. Vishwa 3/46) lost to Kapali CC 217/5 in 39.4 overs (Y. Rahul 69, H. Vishwa 85 n.o. K.V. Chethan 27 n.o.).

Dooravani Cricketers (2) 135 in 42.4 overs (Chethan Kumar 57, Inbarasaganan Bharathi 3/25) lost to Vivekanagar Cricketers 138/2 in 17.4 overs (G.R. Mrunal 40, Vasisht Rampriyan 68 n.o.).

Easy for BFC

BFC blanked Roots FC 5-0 in the BDFA Super Division men's football league.

The results: BFC 5 (Prantik Saha 22, Shashwat Panwar 36, S. Chinmay 45, V. Soham 49, L. Jack 59-og) bt Roots FC 0.

Kemp Juniors wins

Kemp Juniors took out Legends de Sporting 2-1 in the KSFA 'A' division women's football league here on Monday.

The results: Kemp Juniors FC 2 (Vaishnavi 30, Kyra 60) bt Legends de Sporting 1 (Anitha 33).